

2022



THANKFUL SERMON SERIES

STUDY GUIDE

LIFE

"THANKFUL" SERIES

It's the conclusion of the "Thankful" sermon series and as believers, we should always have a heart of thanksgiving and bless the Lord at all times. Through all that has happened in our lives, we can say we are grateful because we are better and not bitter knowing that God is ordering our steps. Let's examine Joseph's life and how he reflected on his process - beginning with the end in mind. *Thankful for...life.*

THE "THANKFUL FOR LIFE" STATEMENT

Genesis 50:20 NIV - You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

- There is a level of maturity that goes with looking back at your past and praising God for what you went through. Give thanks.
- God kept you alive so that you could be a blessing.

3 TAKE OUTS (PLOTS)

FAMILY

*Genesis 37:18 NIV - But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, **they plotted to kill him.***

- The enemy will use your family to try and take you out. Family should be the place that develops you, not destroys you.
- Sometimes your family isn't the safest place to share your dreams.
- If your dreams make it out of your family, you can make it anywhere. You're worldwide.

Has anyone in your family tried to destroy you? What happened? How did you handle it?

PEOPLE

*Genesis 39:13-14 NIV - [13] When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, [14] she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "**this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.***

- People don't necessarily want you, they want the favor that's on your life.
- No matter where they put you, God keeps pushing you to the top.
- When people can't control you, they will try to cancel you.
- The stripping is to get to your promise. *You can have my coat, but you can't have my character.*
- It is a great success to walk out of a difficult season with yourself.

How can you ensure that people don't take you out of your character? What is something you were stripped of that you now see was necessary for your purpose?

EXPECTATION

Genesis 40:14, 23 NIV - [14] *But when all goes well with you, **remember me** and **show me kindness; mention me** to Pharaoh and **get me** out of this prison.*

- Success is connected to your obedience to God (see Joshua 1:9).
- God will let people disappoint you, so He can promote you. People don't owe you anything.
- Remember, if you bless people, look to God to bless you.

What do you do when God permits unfair situations to happen? When God uses you, what expectations do you have?

Genesis 40:23 NIV -[23] *The chief cupbearer, however, **did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.***

- Every hard place in your life God used for your benefit.
- You will reap WHAT you sow. But you will not always reap WHERE you sow.

Have you ever trusted someone to do something only to be let down? What do you do when God allows people to disappoint you?

**THEY PLOT AGAINST YOU
THEY LIE ON YOU
THEY DISAPPOINT YOU**

BIRTHING IN IT

Genesis 41:50-52 NIV - [50] *Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath, daughter of Potiphara, priest of On. [51] Joseph named his firstborn **Manasseh** and said, “It is because **God has made me forget** all my trouble and all my father's household.” [52] The second son he named **Ephraim** and said, “It is because **God has made me fruitful** in the land of my suffering.”*

- Joseph lived his dream while helping Pharaoh complete his dream.
- Manasseh means “God has made me forget” and Ephraim means “Fruitful.”
- Two things your enemies don't expect is for you to:
 - Forget
 - Be fruitful
- All of the things you've been through didn't work then and it won't work now.

What do you need God to help you forget? How has God made you fruitful after the disappointment?

I AM THANKFUL FOR MY LIFE

Genesis 50:19-20 NIV - [19] But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? [20] You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

- Ask God for a proper perspective on your process.
- Joseph's family was saved because he didn't hold a grudge.
- Sometimes God will take you through some things, so you can appreciate life.

Now that God has brought you out, whose lives have you been called to save?

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV - [16] **Rejoice** always, [17] **pray** continually, [18] **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

- God will shift you to a place of gratitude where you can operate in your purpose.
- Doing nothing is not an option. **Rejoice, pray and give thanks.**

How can you create a habit of rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks in your daily life?

DECLARATION

I'm thankful for my life...all of it. I'm still here and I'm in the most productive season of my life.

PRAYER

Father, Thank You for the gift of life! As I look back over my life, although I have experienced many disappointments that came from family, people, and failed expectations, I am grateful that You used it all to develop my gifts and purpose. Thank You for taking what the enemy intended for evil and making it good. Continue to be glorified in both my trials and my successes. In Your mighty name we pray, Amen!