



Message 4 – Facing the Subtle Test of Success

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Genesis 41:37-46; 53-57

Abraham Lincoln said, "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." The Bible and modern times are filled with stories of people who did fine during difficult times but crumbled when they succeeded.

Success can be dangerous. It can be intoxicating. It often becomes false god, luring our heart away from devotion to the true and living God.

In today's message we reach a significant turning point in the life of Joseph. It is here that he must face another test -- the test of success.

JOSEPH ACKNOWLEDGED GOD UP FRONT

Genesis 41:15-16, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it." "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means."

Joseph is not **ashamed** or **afraid** to acknowledge God.

Joseph demonstrates genuine **humility**.

Proverbs 11:2, *When pride comes, shame is not far behind, but wisdom accompanies those who are humble.* TV

Joseph understood that success is a **gift**.

JOSEPH UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS NOT THE POINT

Joseph understood there was a **bigger story** going on.

He was beginning to understand that his destiny was unfolding.

It was bigger than him.

Joseph was raised to success in order to ...

feed the world

save his own family

bring about the birth of **Jesus**.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE TEST OF SUCCESS?

You are ready when you remember you will give **account**.

1 Timothy 6:14-15, *I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time.* NIV

You are ready when you can **resist** the temptations that come with having more.

1 Timothy 6:17, *Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain.* NIV

You ready when you can discern how to **best use** what God has given you.

1 Timothy 6:18, *Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.* NIV

You are ready when you can **enjoy** what you've been given but you don't depend on it for your **joy**.

1 Timothy 6:17, *God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.* NIV