

FAITH and DROUGHT
Dollars and Droughts
Genesis 41

[COMMERCIAL: Romance on the River – INVEST in your MARRIAGE!]

Today, and for the next four weeks, we are going to talk about MANAGING MONEY. Now, I KNOW that some of you SQUIRM when I say that we are going to talk about MONEY. But, Jesus talked about money more than he talked about heaven! (Or about MOST OTHER TOPICS!) Your perspective on money is inextricably LINKED to your FAITH. Jesus said, “Where your TREASURE is, there your HEART will be also!” So, I want us to look at our treasures in this series to make sure that they are not DIRECTING our hearts away from the ONE who is our true SOURCE!

Also, I want to tell you that this series is meant to be LAUGHINGLY PRACTICAL! I want to look at the BASICS of how we handle finances. We have some amazing classes that we teach here at CHC (Financial Peace), **but this is a series that I want to teach on Sunday mornings, and then I want EVERY ONE of our LIFE GROUPS to discuss these in their group times together for the next four weeks.** This will help us all to get a better grip on our finances, no matter what they currently may look like in your home!

***DISCLOSURE: I am the SPENDER in our family! Lisa is my HERO!**

WHY IS THIS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR US TO DISCUSS?

- It has a huge PERSONAL effect on each of us. [Fear/Guilt/Depression]
- It deeply affects our FAMILIES. [It is a Top Cause of stress in marriage!]
- It radically affects our KINGDOM IMPACT [To GIVE or NOT to Give!]

GOAL OF THIS SERIES:

I want to inspire you to DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT with your DOLLARS in order to CULTIVATE FAITH within your FINANCIAL LIFE.

*Some of you have been stuck in the same MONEY PIT for years. Enough!

*It is time for you to CHANGE your MIND about your money! **[Perspective]**

Opening Illustration: Review the ECONOMIC DROUGHT of 2008. The bible contains many stories about seasons of drought. We will study the story of the drought during the time of Joseph in this series. But here is the FIRST TRUTH that I want us to see.

We must learn to expect seasons of drought.

God knows the droughts that are a part of our future.

*He has allowed them

*He has limited them

*He wants to TEACH you to TRUST him in them! [Our journey of faith]

*We have a KEY ROLE in PREPARING for them!

We may not know exactly WHEN a drought is coming, but we should always LIVE as IF one is coming! **[PERSONAL droughts HAPPEN: JOB LOSS. HEALTH ISSUES.]**

-Wisdom looks ahead and PREPARES for the future without PRESUMPTION.

Proverbs 22:3 NLT

3 A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

We must learn the truth that God provides ABUNDANCE for PRESERVATION and not just for CONSUMPTION!

-This is the LONG VIEW of finances **[Seasonal Incomes? Retirement?]**

Most famous drought in the bible: JOSEPH and the 7-year drought in Egypt, and how God caused Pharaoh to put Joseph in charge of Egypt's resources.

Genesis 41-47 [Recap the story]

We are stewards that must be aware of what we are managing.

Genesis 41:40-46 NLT

40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours." 41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. 43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval." 45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphara, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. 46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. **And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.**

Joseph understood that he was the designated steward of Egypt.

-A key aspect of spiritual MATURITY is accepting the truth that we are stewards!

*This means that these resources did NOT simply BELONG to him!

*This implies that he was ACCOUNTABLE to one that was ABOVE him.

-Joseph KNEW where wealth came from in the FIRST place! **[Gen. 41:28-32]**

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 NIV

17 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." 18 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

Joseph wasted no time in going out to INSPECT the resources of Egypt. (Vs. 46)

- His FIRST ACTION as a steward was to FIND OUT what he was responsible for!
- He approached this as a man on a MISSION! [How many silos? Fields? People?]

-Do YOU KNOW what God has entrusted to YOU as a steward?

Proverbs 27:23-24 NIV

23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; 24 for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations.

***Wisdom does not focus on what we LACK but on what we HAVE!**

- Wisdom REJOICES in BASIC provision rather than POORMOUTHING.
- *You will be a victim or a poormouth if you hit a drought without being prepared!

-The ability to do this is based in CONTENTMENT! **1 Timothy 6:6-8 NLT**
6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. 7 After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. 8 So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

The habit of counting our money will increase our financial awareness.

Genesis 41:47-49 AMP

47 In the seven abundant years the earth produced handfuls [for each seed planted]. 48 And Joseph gathered all the [surplus] food of the seven [good] years in the land of Egypt and stored [enormous quantities of] the food in the cities. He stored away in every city the food [collected] from its own surrounding fields. 49 Thus Joseph gathered *and* stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, **until he stopped counting it, for it could not be measured.**

COUNT IT OUT . . . BEFORE THE DROUGHT!

- *Counting your money is a key aspect of wise money management!
 - KNOWING where your money is GOING.** Don't stick your head in the sand!
 - This is not meant to make you OBSESS over your money.
- *Counting out your money helps you to LIMIT WASTEFULNESS!
 - It forces you to THINK about what you are DOING with your money.
 - CREDIT CARDS: How many of you swipe them and do not look to see the total?
 - CASH: How many of you use CASH for purchases these days?
 - ***FACT: Spending cash makes your more aware of the COST of a thing!**
 - DEBT: Do you KNOW how much DEBT you have?
 - *CONSUMER Debt Vs. INVESTMENT Debt

*Challenges to CHC: 1. Every time you use a credit or debit card, say the amount out loud so that you will acknowledge how much something just cost. 2. (Bonus Challenge) Pay CASH every time you buy gas OR eat out (choose one), so that you see how much something cost. 3. Go home and ADD UP your consumer debt (Credit Card/Cars/Luxury items/Furniture/etc.). Write it down and keep it where you have to LOOK AT IT. Also, throw it in our debt barrel next week if you are willing.

Let's Pray.