

Xtreme Faith. Week 6

"Faith of Joseph, Extreme Vision"

Hebrews 11:22 and Genesis 37:2-8; 45:3-9; 50:24-26

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Introduction: "Faith is the "X" factor:

1. that gives us vision to trust God.
2. that enlarges our hope in God's promises
3. that leads us to experience God's provision.

I. Joseph had faith to trust God's calling (Genesis 37:2-7)

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had:⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." (Genesis 45:3-7)

II. Joseph's family doubted his vision. (Genesis 37:8)

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

III. Joseph's vision came true (Genesis 45:3-9)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.⁶ For two years

now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping.⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.⁸ So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.' (Genesis 45:3-9)

IV. Joseph foretold the Exodus (Hebrews 11:22)

²² By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones. (Hebrews 11:22)

²⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."²⁵ And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place."

²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. (Genesis 50:24-26)

Conclusion:

- Extreme faith is open to dreams that come from God.
- Extreme faith faces opposition with courage.
- Extreme faith perseveres while God's plan unfolds.

Questions:

1. What made Joseph's vision of ruling difficult for family to hear?
2. How have you experienced the doubt of family members?
3. What role have dreams or visions played in your life?
4. How did God reveal His sovereignty and providence for Joseph?
5. Why did God give these dreams to Joseph to begin with?
6. What dreams or visions are helping you in these days?