

9-10-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Not Your Average Joe

Purpose: Provoke people to live an extraordinary life by following the example of Joseph.

Spiritual Truth: God doesn't want us to be ordinary; He wants us to be extraordinary!

Text: Genesis 50:20

Topic: Joseph, Extraordinary, Destiny, Attitude, Problems, Sovereignty

Series: Not Your Average Joe

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Not Your Average Joe

I. Introduction

- A. Video Sermon Spice: "Joseph" <http://www.sermonspice.com/product/39543/joseph>
- B. New Sermon Series: "Not Your Average Joe". We'll learn how to live an extraordinary life by following the example of the OT character, Joseph.
- C. Listen to live stream @ChurchOnTheRock.org or the COTR iPhone/ Android app
- D. An average Joe def.: Someone who is just like everyone else; a completely average person. Contrast extraordinary, def.: Someone who goes beyond what is average; someone who is exceptional and stands out in the crowd (Movie: Invincible, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMQuQ7ZPyb0>, 30 seconds)
- E. Today: Joseph shows us how extraordinary people follow "The Master's Plan". Joseph's story is intertwined with God's plan for humanity. God had a problem. He needed to get food for His chosen people in a famine. He decided to use a man to take care of them and chose a 17-year-old boy, Joseph. 25-30 he understood the brutal treatment by his brothers in context of God's plan. Ge. 50:20 (ESV)...you meant evil against me, but **God meant it for good**, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive...
 - 1. God had a plan for Joseph and He has a plan for us. The 1st lesson we learn from Joseph is: extraordinary people follow the "The Master's Plan".
- F. Purp.: Provoke people to live an extraordinary life by following the example of Joseph.
- G. Spiritual truth: God doesn't want us to be ordinary; He wants us to be extraordinary!

II. Overview of Joseph's life

- A. Genesis 37:2-4 (NIV) Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers...and he brought their father a bad report about them...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.
 - 1. Jealous brothers...pit and Midianites...slave to Potiphar...in charge of Potiphar's house...Potiphar's wife...prison...in charge of the prison...interprets dream of baker and cupbearer...forgotten in prison...Pharaoh's dream of famine...promoted to take care of the nation...blessed with wealth, power and family...reunited with brothers and dad...takes care the Jews, who were in the lineage of Jesus Christ.

2. An “average Joe” in Joseph’s shoes would have whined and complained in Potiphar’s house, slept with Potiphar’s wife, given up in prison, taken credit for his success and gotten even with his brothers but not Joseph, he was extraordinary.
- iii. Joseph shows us how extraordinary people follow “The Master’s Plan”
- A. Extraordinary people find and fulfill God’s plan for their life
 1. Genesis 37:5–8 (NLT) One night Joseph had a dream...6 “Listen to this dream,” he said. 7 “We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!” 8 His brothers responded, “... Do you actually think you will reign over us?”...
 2. God has a master plan for all of us. Extraordinary people find it and pursue it.
 3. Psalm 139:16 (NLT) You saw me before I was born. **Every day of my life was recorded in your book.** Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV) “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, **before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.**”
 4. Our greatest happiness and fulfillment will occur when we find God’s plan and pursue it with all our heart.
 - B. Extraordinary people overcome character defects
 1. Ge. 37:2-8 (NLT) ...Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing. 3...one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. 4 But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them...8 His brothers responded...Do you actually think you will reign over us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and **the way he talked about them.**
 2. Many commentators interpret Joseph’s actions as prideful. At 17 he was treated better than his bro’s and his dream could be interpreted as being superior to them.
 3. Before God could make him extraordinary He had to learn humility. James 4:6 (ESV)...**God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.**
 4. We’ve all got character issues that God has to deal with before we can fulfill God’s plan, e.g. pride/ humility, fear/ trust, greedy and stingy/ generous. Extraordinary people are willing to develop godly character.
 - C. Extraordinary people face problems with a good attitude
 1. Ge 39:1 (NIV)...Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials...bought him from the Ishmaelites...3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did...Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned
 2. How does a slave become chief-of staff? Joseph was thrown in a pit by his brothers and sold as a slave. Somehow, in spite of unfair treatment, bad living conditions, low pay and a horrible work environment Joseph served with excellence and became successful. How did he become successful?
 3. I believe Joseph kept a good attitude in a bad situation. Our attitude determines our behavior. The right behavior will open the door to promotion.

4. Ephesians 6:7 (MSG) And **work with a smile on your face**, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, **you're really serving God**. 1 Thes. 5:18 (MSG) **thank God no matter what happens**. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.
 5. A good attitude is a choice; it acknowledges God is still good and in control even in bad circumstances. This is faith in action and faith is an invitation for God to act.
- D. Extraordinary people are content to wait on God's timing
1. Context: Joseph is wrongfully in prison and interprets dreams. Ge 40:23–41:1 (NIV) The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; **he forgot him**. 1 When **two full years** had passed, Pharaoh had a dream...Genesis 41:9–14 (NLT) the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up...12 **There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison...** We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant ...14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from **the prison**.
 2. Joseph was in a place he didn't want to be, doing what he didn't want to do but unbeknownst to him, God was working behind the scene. Sometimes we have to wait on God's timing for our dreams to become reality.
 3. Isaiah 40:31 (MSG) But those who wait upon GOD (*hope, trust, look forward*) get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind. Psalm 27:14 (ESV) Wait for the LORD (*hope, trust, look forward*); be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!
- E. Extraordinary people see God's purpose in their promotion
1. Genesis 45:4–8 (NLT) "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5...don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. **It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives...8...And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh... and the governor of all Egypt.**
 2. Joseph was promoted from a slave to VP of Egypt. He had wealth, power, a beautiful wife, kids...but he had to decide what to do with his promotion. God blesses and promotes us for a purpose. We can spend it all on/ for ourselves or use it to accomplish His plan for His glory. The choice is up to us.
- F. Next week: Extraordinary people "Pass the Test"

IV. Conclusion

- A. Summary: Joseph shows us 4 things about extraordinary people: (1) Extraordinary people find and fulfill God's plan for their life (2) they overcome character defects (3) they face problems with a good attitude (4) they're content to wait on God's timing (5) they see God's purpose in their promotion

V. Prayer: Lord I want to live an extraordinary life...show me your plan for my life.

VI. Souls: the starting place for finding God's plan is to be born again: surrender and follow

- A. *** *Logos Bible Software and library, Urban Dictionary and Wikipedia, were used to prepare this message.*

