

06-12-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Mentor Me, Joseph, pt-3

Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons from the Biblical character, Joseph.

Truth for Today: Joseph went from a pit to a position of great power because he held on to his faith in God.

Text: Genesis 41:9-52

Topic: Joseph, Promotion, Prosperity, Adversity, Pride, Humility, Forgiveness

Series Title: Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

Mentor Me, Joseph, pt-3

I. Introduction

- A. Review series: Mentor Me. The last 2 weeks we've been mentored by Joseph. His story begins with a dream from God about becoming one of the most powerful people in the world, but for 13 years he faced hardship but never lost his faith in God. Today he'll teach us 10 mentoring lessons that brought him from slavery to leading a nation.
- B. Review: Last week we left Joseph in prison falsely accused of rape. **He interprets the dreams of two of Pharaoh's officials.** [Ge. 40:14- 41:1 (NLT) And please remember me ...mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. 15... I'm here in prison, but **I did nothing to deserve it.**" 1 Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, ...1 **Two full years later**, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River.
- C. Video Joseph: Context taken from prison to the palace to interpret Pharaoh's dreams.
- D. Title: Mentor Me, Joseph, pt-3

II. God will promote us in His timing if we remain faithful to Him

- A. Context/ summary: Pharaoh's dreams of grain and cows, no one can explain... (3rd time dream motif) [Ge. 41:9-52 (NLT) Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh...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. 13 And everything happened just as he had predicted...14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and **he was quickly brought from the prison.**
- B. Mentoring lesson #1: 2 years is a long time to wait but when we follow Jesus, we're on God's timetable, not our own. Jesus to disciples, [Acts 1:7 (MSG) He told them, "You don't get to know the time. **Timing is the Father's business.**] What Joseph didn't know was the prison was part of God's plan and a step to the

palace. When we're waiting in prison for God to act, the HS will help us. [Galatians 5:22 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives...**patience**...] Def. patience: the ability to endure hardship while we wait on God to act. HS help is available.

C. Mentoring lesson #2: God's unseen hand sets up divine appointments to affect our destiny. Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and later he interpreted a dream of pharaoh's cup bearer in prison. It's as if God was putting people in his life to affect his future, E.g., How did a farmer's son from Ms.? Navy, in Ca., LaNell's dad trained me for ministry, knew Pastor K in Texarkana.

1. Joseph met his divine appointments as a slave and in prison. The prison was a part of God's plan. The prison was a place that positioned Joseph to meet the right people and be available when God needed him. In our evil world God can use our adversity for a purpose bigger than us.

D. Mentoring lesson #3: God often moves suddenly and quickly if we're in position and ready. Joseph woke up one morning in jail and went to bed in the palace. It happened suddenly and unexpectantly, E.g., Pentecost, 'suddenly the Spirit fell'; Peter in prison, 'suddenly an angel woke him and freed him'. We never know when God will act but we always need to be ready, e.g., what if God sent a revival today.

III. Joseph became humble, and more dependent on God in 13 years of adversity

A. [Vs. 15 Then 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." 16 "**It is beyond my power to do this...But God can tell you what it means...**"] A proud man would say, 'sure I can'. A humble man says I can't, but God can. Humble people have learned the greatest lesson in life, [Acts 17:28 (NLT) For **in him (Jesus Christ) we live and move and exist.**] i.e., everything I am...have, can do.

B. Mentoring lesson #4: Our pride has to be replaced with humility before God can use us in a big way. [Vs. 16 "**It is beyond my power to do this...But God can tell you what it means...**"] Pride can be manifested as arrogance, a sense of superiority or more self-confidence than dependence on God. God uses situations to increase dependence on Him, [2 Cor. 1:8–10 (NLT) We think you ought to know...about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were... overwhelmed...and we thought we would never live through it. 9...But as a result, **we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God...**] Humble people realize all we are, all we have and all we can do is

because of God. Humility prepared Joseph to govern Egypt and save the world. A self-confident 17-year-old dreamer became a humble world ruler.

- C. Mentoring lesson #5: The key to Joseph's success was he always maintained his relationship with God. [Vs. 16 "It is beyond my power to do this...**But God can tell you what it means...**"] If Joseph had grown bitter and got a bad attitude because of his circ., he would still be a slave doing forced labor for Potiphar, but he didn't. He trusted and served the Lord no matter what happened.

IV. God fulfills his promises if we remain faithful.

- A. Summarize Pharaoh's dreams: 7 cows fat then lean and 7 ears of grain big then little. Joseph interpreted the dreams as 7 years of prosperity then 7 years of famine. He also offered a solution: find a man to organize the surplus to prepare for the famine.
- B. [Vs. 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are...41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "**I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.**"]
1. He had a dream at 17 of being a world ruler, 13 years later God brought it to pass. One morning he woke up a slave in prison and went to sleep in charge of Egypt How did this happen?
 2. Mentoring lesson #6: The key to Joseph's success was he always maintained his relationship with God. [Vs. 16 "It is beyond my power to do this...**But God can tell you what it means...**"] Joseph trusted and served the Lord no matter what happened, and God honored his faithfulness to Him.
- C. Mentoring lesson #7: God can heal our wounded heart and bless us. [Vs. 50...before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph...51 Joseph named his older son **Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles...**52 Joseph named his second son **Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."**] There's hope for us. God can heal the pain of the past and make us prosper in a place of adversity, e.g., my Latvian grandmother.

V. Mentoring lesson #8: Joseph passed the test of bitterness and unforgiveness; so can we.

- A. Genesis 42:1–9 (NLT) ...Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt...3 So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain...6 Since Joseph was ... in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, **they bowed before him** with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke **harshly**
1. I'm assuming the reason Joseph didn't tell his brothers who he was and treated them badly was because deep down, he was still hurt and hadn't

forgiven them. Unresolved, repressed pain from the past can define us the rest of our life and leave us bitter. Now Joseph has a choice to make.

B. 3rd time, [Ge. 45:1–15 (NLT) Joseph...told them who he was. 2 Then **he broke down and wept**...4...“I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset... **It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives**. 6 This famine will last five more years...8 So **it was God** ...who made me... governor of all Egypt...11 **I will take care of you**”...15 Then Joseph **kissed** each of his brothers and **wept** over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.]

1. Mentoring lesson #9: Sometimes God will bring people who hurt us back into our lives to heal us and them.

2. Def. forgiveness: let go, release, pardon, to turn justice over to God.

Unforgiveness creates bitterness, hatred, and causes us to seek revenge.

When we forgive others, we free ourselves. Forgiveness heals the soul. // get splinter out

VI. Conclusion: Mentoring lesson #10: God can turn bad experiences into something good if we don’t lose our faith in God.

A. Context: Jacob died and Joseph’s brothers were afraid he’d punish them, [Ge. 50:18–21 (NLT) Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said. 19 But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me...20 **You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.**]

1. Romans 8:28 (ESV) And we know that **for those who love God all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to **his purpose**.

B. No matter what we face in life, God is still with us. The puzzle pieces of Joseph’s life fell in place after 22 years. God blessed him after the trial because he held on to His faith in God. God will do the same for us.

VII. Response

A. Prayer: (1) you feel like you’re in prison and it’s hard to keep trusting God, (2) You struggle with pride, i.e., You’re convicted you have more self-confidence than dependence on God, (3) Your heart is wounded and hurting because of what someone did, and you’re struggle with bitterness and unforgiveness.

B. Souls

VIII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.