



Life Is All About Perspective!

Whose Perspective?

Our Perspective His Perspective






Whose Perspective?

My Perspective

- Financial Success
- Influence
- Control
- “The Blessed life”
- Material Possessions
- Security
- Legacy

God’s Perspective

- Salvation for all
- Relationship
- Increase of His Government
- Mountain will fill the earth
- Righteousness, love, joy, peace, patience, ... self-control
- Will He find faith

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- A black arrow points to the right from the top left corner. Several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep across the left side of the slide.
- ▶ We are concerned about our comfort
 - ▶ He is concerned about our Character

Comfort vs Character

Life of Joseph



- **Vision Comes Gen 37 –**
- **Everyone understood it from own perspective**
- **Gen 37:8 – hated him even more!**
- ***YES! I'm the most important!!!***

- **How are we interpreting His vision for us?**

Is it all about ME!!?

1. First Challenge – Catastrophe



- Doesn't go too well!!
- Plot to Kill him – he was a real pain!
- *“What’s the point of giving me all this promise - only to kill me?”*

- What about you – Does the opposite happen?



What's God Working on Here?

- **Disappointment – relate to that I'm sure**
- **Fear – literally**
- **Self-centeredness**
- **His "OWN" big dreams**
- **Doubts, sick to the pit of his stomach**
- **Forget the dream I just need to stay alive!!**
- **Testing – was any of this God?**

Q - Do you recognize any of these traits in you?

2. Second Challenge

Things go well - Success

- ▶ Learned his first lesson really well
- ▶ Potiphar “saw the Lord was with him . . . all he put his hand to prospered” Gen 39:2-6
- ▶ Left everything in his care
- ▶ He can see how it might work – is the dream re-kindled?
- ▶ Story – “What ever it is that you do, just do it”
- ▶ The Erik Little Effect – “I feel His pleasure”




What's God Training him for?

- How to grow crops
- How to harvest
- How to store
- How to sow seed
- How to manage cattle
- How to manage an estate
- How to manage servants
- How to manage & increase his master's wealth





Success Can Be The Hardest Test

- **“I” did this**
 - **“MY” skills, MY talents**
 - **My Success**
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3. Third Challenge – Injustice Go-to-Jail

- ▶ Doing the right thing **INTEGRITY**
- ▶ Lied about - Misunderstood
- ▶ Do the right thing and still it goes wrong
 - ▶ Bitter towards God – I did my bit – YOU let ME down
- ▶ Lesson, it's not about me and my skills
- ▶ When everything goes wrong
 - Am I completely submitted to Him?





Death of the Dream

- ▶ **Is this where the dream really dies?**
- ▶ **No interpretation of this has the family bowing down**
- ▶ **World view, this is a complete and utter disaster**
- ▶ **No hint of redemption – no interpretation gives a positive outcome**
- ▶ **What disappointment are you facing in your life ?**

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Handles Himself Well In Face of Injustice

- ▶ In charge, again, “The Lord was with Joseph”
- ▶ No hint of bitterness, resentment towards God
- ▶ Important Lessons for his future
 - ▶ How to handle really desperate people
 - ▶ How to handle security & guards
 - ▶ How to work hard in a dead-end job, no prospects

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4. Fourth Challenge Delay & Disappointment

- **Cup Bearer**
- **Hope comes – “just get me out of here”**
- **2-years he waits - Disappointment**
- **Joseph handles it really well – do we?**

Acceptance of God's Complete Plan & Result

- *“it is not in me; God will give a favorable answer”*
- Look for a man discerning & wise Gen 41:33
- *Gen 50:20 You meant evil against me but God meant it for good to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive*
- His original interpretation was small – his family - an entire nation
- What a Character change
- What a skill set – the Tapestry Revealed
- How are you responding to changes around you





Challenges

1. Catastrophe – the opposite happens
2. Success – Doing it in our own strength
3. Injustice – Wrongly accused
4. Disappointment – so close yet so far

Where am I in this process?

**We Don't Like What
We See?**

**But He Sees What He
Planned**



Accepting His Plan His Way Not My Way

- Is your interpretation Too fixed & rigid
- He knows the outcome – we don't
- Are you wishing it was like it was before?
- Are you resisting God ?
- Remember the dream was right! The interpretation of how it would work out wasn't

*Am I going to play my part in HIS plan
No matter what it looks like today?*



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Perspective!**

His Perspective!