

HANDOUT PART 2: UNSHAKABLE FAITH:

Last Week we Began Our Study of the Life of Joseph...We Saw that God Gave Joseph a Prophetic Dream...And his Family did Not Like the Dream that said, "Joseph would Rise Above All of them in Power and Position"...And They Would Bow Down to him. Joseph's Angry brothers Sold him into Slavery...And Because Joseph Sought to Honor God even in Captivity...God Blessed Him with Potiphar's Favor.

However, Satan sought to Destroy Joseph and God's Plan for Joseph to Save Family and Egypt by having Potiphar's wife Seduce Him. Joseph Refused and Fled...Potiphar's wife lied and Joseph goes to Prison!

READ Genesis 39:20-23

- We read that Even While in Prison, God Was With Joseph and Granted him Favor in the Warden's Eyes. **APPLICATION: God will ALWAYS Bless You for Doing the Right Thing!**

There is No Short-Term Advantage that is Worth Incurring the Eternal Wrath of God. But When You Realize that God Blesses You for Doing the Right Thing, You See Things From Gods Point of View.

- Joseph Understood This and in the Midst of His Most Difficult Circumstances Joseph Had "Unshakable Faith"! **1 Peter 2:20:**

I Don't want to Minimize the Fact that *there is Sometimes a Price to Pay for Doing the Right Thing. Sometimes, You'll have to Make Some Very Difficult, Perhaps Painful and Even Costly Decisions...BUT CHARACTER DOESN'T HAVE A PRICE TAG!*

Joseph Understood that it was about Upholding God's Standard. He Understood that God will Give You Power to Overcome Temptation...To Resist Unethical Shortcuts and to Pursue what's Right Instead of What's Expedient. James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Read Genesis 40:12-14: After the showing goodness to the Butler, Joseph was again Repaid with Ungratefulness. Instead of remembering Joseph after his Release, the Butler forgot his Promise to Joseph.

Thought: We've Received So Much From the Lord and Yet We So Easily Forget to Remember and Daily Thank Him For His Provision, Protection and Countless Blessings!

READ Genesis 41:8-14: HERE WE WILL SEE THAT GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS PERFECT:

- Pharaoh had a Troubling Dream that NO One in his Court was Able to Interpret. The Butler Remembered Joseph and Mentioned him to the Pharaoh The Pharaoh Sends for Joseph.

Imagine Joseph's Expectation! But his Expectation is *Nothing Compared* to What he is About to be Rewarded! **WHY?** Joseph's Faith Remained Strong Throughout His Years of Captivity in Egypt. *Joseph Confirmed his Faith to God by Acknowledging Him to be the Supreme Giver of Knowledge and Wisdom.*

- In Gen 41:16 Joseph said, ***"It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace"***

READ Genesis 41:39-41 Pharaoh Pronounced to Joseph And for Everyone to Hear that Joseph would become number 2 in all of Egypt! *Joseph, A Mere Prisoner, Was Suddenly Turned into the Most Powerful Ruler in the Land of Egypt Next to the Pharaoh!*

- **This is how God works. If God wills it, He can Turn the Table for US at Any Moment.**

What Do We Learn from This Story? How Do We Apply Gods Principles Here?

Romans 8:28 says, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Do WE Believe It!? Do You Believe That God Is Sovereign And That He Has a Perfect Plan for You?

I Want You To Embrace this Truth...*Just Like the Prophetic Dream that God Gave to Joseph... **Before You Were Born, God Had a Specific Dream for YOU!***

- Every Good Thing...Every Seemingly Bad Thing that God Allows In Your Life is Part of His Plan to Bless You and Prepare You for Greater Service and Immeasurable JOY!

Josephs Life Makes it Clear to Us that NO Matter what Happens in Our life, We can Always have the Confidence that God is in TOTAL CONTROL...NO EXCEPTIONS!

- *Though We Might Not Understand the things that are Happening in Our Lives Now, We can have the Faith that God Will Work ALL Things for Good!*

KEY: As You Wait On the Lord... There will Always Come a Point When The Things You Don't Understand at that Moment...Will in Time, Make Sense to You. Then, You Will Suddenly Realize How God Used That Thing You Didn't Understand.

Exodus 14:13 says, *Therefore, if things are Not Going According to Your Plan, just "Stand Still, and See the Salvation of the LORD".*

Joseph teaches Us that there Is No Excuse Good Enough to Break God's Commandments!

- Joseph Could have Just Made Excuses and Give Up. After All, he could have had the Best Life there is in Egypt by Compromising God's Principles.

Consider...Almost Every Man or Woman who was Used by God in the Bible to Do Incredible Things Started Off with Either Trepidation, Doubt or Excuses. **From Jonah to Gideon, there are plenty of instances of people's hearts being changed as they give God's Plan a Chance.**

The Most Reluctant of these People was, in My Opinion, Moses. Fearing for his life he retreated to Midian. *It wasn't long before God disrupted his life by calling him to save his people from the hands of Pharoah.*

It's here, in his first conversation with God, that We See Moses Give 5 Back-to-Back Excuses for Why he Could NOT Do What God Wanted him to Do.

1. Read Exodus 3:11 "**Who am I?**"
2. Read Exodus 3:13 "**I Might Get Pushback!**"
3. Read Exodus 4:1 "**People are the Problem...**"
4. Read Exodus 4:10 "**I'm Not Talented Enough!**"
5. Read Exodus 4:13 **Stubborn Refusal**

And it's Just as Easy for Us To Excuse Ourselves From Following Gods Commands. We May tell Ourselves that We would Never have the Audacity to Reject God to His Face...But the Truth is We Do.

Responses [Excuses] like...**Lord**, I'm Too Young...They Won't Listen to Me OR...I Don't Know What to say...**Lord**, You Know I'm Too Busy...Maybe After I Retire...**Lord**, You Know I Can't Tithe...After my Bills It Just Isn't There...**Lord**, I Just Can't Forgive that Person...And the Excuses Goes On and On...

THE KEY TO UNSHAKABLE FAITH IS THIS: If God's Way of Life is Important to You...You Will Find Every Reason to Follow Him Instead of Making Excuses.

Like Joseph...We Need to Come to the Realization that There Really is NO Excuse Good Enough for Us to Not Do the Right Thing or Not to Do What God Ask Of Us!

"LIFE" POINT: Faith is Not Trusting in My Own Unshakable Belief...Faith is Believing in An Unshakable God When Everything in Me Trembles and Quakes!