

Lessons From Joseph - God's Ultimate Dreamer

*"One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. "Listen to this dream," he said. "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!" His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? 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. Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" But **while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.**" Genesis 37:5-11 (NLT)*

I. Introduction

II. Joseph's Path to Greatness--Lessons from God's Ultimate Dreamer

1. As it will be in our lives, Joseph's _____ became the key to his _____

*"So "So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the coat of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels...on their way ...down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened. Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. **And they took Joseph to Egypt.**"*

Genesis 37:23-28 (NKJV)

Key thought: By giving Joseph the coat of many colors, Jacob had given Joseph an identity, but now the Lord was going to use Joseph's pain to prepare him for destiny!

2. God's _____ for us will make a way for us through every _____ experience we face. *"The LORD was with Joseph, **so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.**"* Genesis 39:2

*"He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; The Lord is **a shield to those who walk with integrity.**"*
Proverbs 2:7 (NLT)

3. Joseph chose to _____ to others even in the _____ time of his own life, and so must we.

*"...Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. **But Joseph refused...."How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.**" She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her...One day, however...she came and grabbed him by his cloak,*

demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran...She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to rape me," she said..."But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me! Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. **But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.**" Genesis 39:6-21

"Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were in the prison, both had a dream, and each man's dream came with its own need for interpretation...Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." **So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."** Genesis 40:5-8

4. Despite his hardships, betrayals and setbacks, Joseph never tried to _____
"So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon...Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires...Joseph gave Pharaoh the plan. **So Pharaoh asked his advisers, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?"**" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. **You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders.** Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." Genesis 41:14-16; 38-40

When we have times in our lives where we are being treated unfairly or things seem to be continually against us, we can look to Joseph for a great example of how to keep our eyes on God and continue to live in integrity---holding forth the confidence that God will come through for us in **His perfect timing!**

5. Joseph came to realize that God gave him his dream to position him to be a "_____"
"...Joseph said to his brothers, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant this for evil; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." Genesis 50:19-21

"Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath...Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because **God has made me forget** all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because **God has made me fruitful** in the land of my affliction." Genesis 41:50-52

Answer Key

- 1. pain---greatness**
- 2. purposes----wilderness**
- 3. minister---darkest**
- 4. push his own agenda**
- 5. world changer**