

Life Lessons - Joseph

Genesis 39 - 9/4/16

***Genesis 39:1+2**

Joseph was successful, because God was with him.

***1 Samuel 18:14**

Regardless of one's circumstances - whether being enslaved to Pharaoh's captain, or being on the run from your King... It's walking with God, talking with God and trusting in God (in other words, having Him with you!), that makes you a success.

What the world tells us will bring great success, is juxtaposed to what God says will bring true success.

***Genesis 39:3-6**

As we live our lives trusting and following God, He prospers us and shows us favor... As well others around us; although it likely won't look quite like Joseph's life (or the Officer's).

***Genesis 39:3+4a, 5b+c**

God's blessings in our lives flow through our relationship with Him.

D.L. Moody - "*All that Christ has becomes ours when we receive Him*"

The 'unfathomable riches' of Christ are not materialism and wealth, though He oftentimes provides us with more than we need; but His riches aren't limited to just 'stuff'.

We also need to understand that the blessings flow through our obedience (which we can see in Joseph's life as well).

"If we want to choose the path of disobedience (where there's no blessing), then that's up to us. But if we choose the path of obedience, that's where the blessing is... Although the path of blessing may be tough at times."

***Genesis 39:6c-20**

When it came to the very real, tempting and difficult scenario that Joseph found himself in, he didn't worry first about his life (if he followed through)... Or his job... Or even prison; he worried first and foremost about sinning against God.

***Psalm 51:3+4**

***Genesis 39:10**

Believers must learn to establish boundaries. Don't play with fire!

***Genesis 39:12**

There are times when (maybe quite literally!), running from sin isn't such a bad idea.

We have to learn to take responsibility for our thoughts, our actions and our sin. We can't blame it on others... Or our upbringing... Or even our own weakness (although these may play a part), but ultimately - the decision is ours.

***Genesis 39:21-23**

No matter how bad our situation is, it's God's presence with us that will bring us favor and prosperity.

The only reason Joseph excelled to impossible heights, was because God was with Him.

The ultimate question when it comes to truly succeeding in life (no matter how much or how little you have... Or what you've accomplished), is - Was God truly with you? *"Immanuel"

The world will have its own definitions of success. Yet as a people of faith, we need to be mostly concerned with how God (in His Word) defines success - because in the end you can have, or have accomplished many of the things that world defines as success, but if God isn't truly with you... It will ultimately amount to little.

***Mark 8:36-38**