

Heroes – Joseph – 4

Genesis 37:5

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. NKJV

There is a Prophetic word – Tests your faith

There is a literal word – Tests your Character

Great destinies carry great responsibilities – responsibilities that require strong character

God will give us a glimpse of what He wants our life to look like

There is a process to build our character on the way to where we're going

God needed to build character for Joseph to receive the promotions that would take him to his destiny

The Principle of Pride

The root of Pride – Insecurity

The Principle of the Pit

The Enemy will tell us lies in the Pit

- The Enemy will tell others lies to support the lie he's telling us
- There is a difference between condemnation and conviction

The Principle of Good Stewardship

Genesis 39:1-6

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. 6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. NKJV

- Joseph was faithful as a slave and a prisoner
- Do I experience the favor of God?
- My marriage
- My children
- My job
- My health
- My relationships

If you are not prospering in all of these areas it is very possible, if not probable that you are not be putting good stewardship to practice in every area of your life

Genesis 26:12-13

12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; NKJV

- He prospered
- He continued prospering
- He became VERY prosperous
- What is my progression?

Isaiah 1:19-20

19 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword"; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. NKJV

- Am I serving the Lord willingly?
- Have I been obedient?
- To the word – To His will?
- Do I consider Gods word my standard for success?
- Compromise will steal the blessings of God?
- Do I feel like I'm being devoured by the sword?

The Lord doesn't want us to obey just for the sake of obeying – Legalism

He wants our hearts so in love with Him that we want to obey and live life for Him

He wants us to be disciples – living like Him

If you live life as a disciple the Lord blesses you as well as those you come in contact with

2 Chronicles 16:9 NKJV

9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is **loyal** to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars."

- God is looking for **(fully committed) (NLT)** hearts
- These are the ones that will be strengthened
- Commitment brings loyalty
- The more loyal the more obedient (trustworthy)
- Blessings flow out of obedience (trust)
- Living life out of Truth
- Not my will but yours – submission not ambition
- Ambition is not a life of faith

Ambition is very deceptive. It can seem just like obedience, yet because we don't truly know the Lord; the voice we find ourselves obeying is not God's but our own.

I did not understand what I personally lacked in character or what I needed to attain concerning faithfulness, becoming a bondservant and possessing a grateful heart.

These things needed to be worked in me before God would truly begin to fulfill His larger promises and opportunities. What I became was more important than what I did for Him – Francis Frangipane

Luke 12:31-34 NKJV

31 But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. 32 "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Good stewardship is about seeking the Kingdom
- Enjoying the goodness of God in every circumstance
- Many times we are busy stewarding the wrong things
- Is my treasure in heaven?
- Willing obedience to His will – submission
- His will always brings a blessing

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

26 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse:
27 the blessing, if you **obey the commandments** of the LORD your God which I command you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known. NKJV

- When we obey we receive the blessing
- When we worship **other gods** we live under a curse
- We can worship **our works**
- We can worship **our will**
- We are commanded to love the way Jesus did
- My Obedience – Give my life away
- His Obedience – brings the blessing to me

1 John 5:2-5

2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments . 3 For this is the love of God, that we **keep** His commandments . And His commandments are not burdensome. 4 For whatever is **born of God** overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. NKJV

- To **keep** is to protect or to guard
- To **keep** an eye on – to be a spectator
- This is not about keeping the law
- That was done for us
- The purpose of the law was to show us we needed a savior
- This is about keeping our eye on Jesus – **Hebrews 12**

Mark 12:28-34

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. 33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all

the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." NKJV

- He didn't understand you must die to live
- Its not about my works
- Its about His work – complete
- I now walk in His blessings because He has kept the whole law for me
- I have been crucified – Galatians 2:20

Galatians 3:10-11

10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." NKJV

- Am I a good steward of the work that Jesus has done?
- What am I doing with my relationship with Him?
- Am I obedient to His will for my life?
- Do I know His will?
- Its not just good works
- Listening to Him and being obedient to His will is Good stewardship – my soul waits
- This is the key to walking in the blessings of God
- Living by faith believing that His promises are mine

3 John 2

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. NKJV

- Prosperity is found in the soul
- Our mind, will and emotions
- The key is the presence of the Lord

The only way for your soul to prosper is to live out of the presence of the Lord which produces a willingness to please (obey) the Lord

James 4:6 NKJV

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Galatians 4:8-9

8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? NKJV

- Once we know God we should not live under the beggarly elements
- This is why so many are always begging for things
- We live our lives in the flesh
 - good and bad – Romans 7
- When we don't get our way we gripe
- Even if we do achieve the things we want we grow tired, wore out and weary

Isaiah 40:28-31

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is

unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak,

And to those who have no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. NKJV

- Am I tired and worn out?
- Wait – Bind together by twisting
- Have I been joined to the Lord?
- When we work God waits
- When we wait God works