

Heroes – Joseph – 5

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

No Slide: Genesis 39:1-6

- 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

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

No Slide: 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
- Or we just say this is how I am
- This is how things are
- Even if we do achieve the things we want we grow tired, wore out and weary

The Principal of Purity (Holiness)

We live in a culture that declares that sexual morality has nothing to do with character – it's a personal choice

God has a whole different way of looking at it

In fact if we don't live sexually moral lives we may not fulfill the destiny that God has for us

God made sex for the marriage relationship
In that context it is holy and a gift from God

If I can not enjoy sex in that context than I should abstain from sex, serve God and believe for healing

I am a surrendered alcoholic – I should not drink

Attending Church and living a surrendered life is not the same thing

Abstinence is not a popular opinion

1 Corinthians 6:20

20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. NLT

2 Corinthians 6:6

6 We have proved ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, our sincere love, and the power of the Holy Spirit. NLT

- Holy Spirit power to live a holy life

Romans 1:21-23

21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became utter fools instead. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people, or birds and animals and snakes. NLT

- My view of God affects my worship
- What idols do you have? Consumerism
- The Jewish mind – Worship = Obedience

Romans 1:24-25

24 So God let them go ahead and do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies. 25 Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. NLT

Romans 1:26-27

26 That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. 27 And the men, instead of having normal sexual relationships with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men and, as a result, suffered within themselves the penalty they so richly deserved. NLT

- I did not write this
- The Holy Spirit did
- It's a matter of what (who) we worship

We live in a day when a NFL football quarterback is criticized and asked to keep his faith to himself yet we celebrate an NBA basketball player for coming out of the closet with his homosexuality

Character is a foundational issue

King David, “A man after God’s own heart” – Acts 13:22

Sexual immorality drove him to lying and eventually murder to try and cover up his sin

His family suffered because of it

It should cause us to search our own hearts and pray

Joseph passed this principal with flying colors

Colossians 3:5

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. NKJV

- The old nature must die
- Live out of your new nature
- We have the mind of Christ – 1 Corinthians 2:16

Colossians 3:7

7 You **used to do them** when your life was still part of this world. NLT

Colossians 3:8-9

8 But now you yourselves are to **put off** all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds. NKJV

Colossians 3:10-11

10 and have put on the **new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all**. NKJV

- “New Nature” – NLT
- “Christ is all that matters” – NLT
- This is the key – fall in love with Jesus

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

16 And what agreement has the temple of God with **idols**? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

17 Therefore

"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." NKJV

Genesis 39:7-9 NKJV

7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- Joseph refused
- Will I refuse?
- Make a decision to live out of the new man
- Sin “Grieves” the Holy Spirit – **Ephesians 4:30**

Genesis 39:10-12

10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, 12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. NKJV

- Joseph stayed away from temptation
- Do I stay away from temptation?
- Joseph turned and ran
- Will I turn and run? – **1 Corinthians 10:13**

Joseph new how to steward his body or physical appetites in a way that is honoring to God

If we can not control our own bodies it will hurt our witness to the world

1 Corinthians 9:27

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. NKJV

- We can spend time in the word
- We can spend time in prayer
- Failure to discipline ourselves – disqualification

Impurity begins in the eye not the heart

Luke 11:34

34 The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. NKJV

Genesis 39:6-7

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. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." NKJV

- Sexual desire begins with what we see
- Desire turns into lust
- Lust becomes sin

James 1:14-15

14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. NKJV

- “A little look won’t hurt”, is a lie
- Don’t look – change your desire (The Lord)
- At pornography
- Sexually explicit movies
- Seductive TV programming
- Inappropriate internet sites

Proverbs 27:20

20 Hell and Destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. NKJV

Psalms 101:3

3 I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; NKJV

If you have fallen in this area today is the day to repent and receive forgiveness

The key is to...

- Acknowledge the sin
- Ask for forgiveness – Declare your freedom
- Repent – turn from it – live out of the New Man
- Sin no more – discipline – stop looking
- Turn to Jesus

John 8:11 NKJV

"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."