

Heroes – Joseph – 8

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

The Principle of Pride
The Principle of the Pit
The Principle of Good Stewardship
The Principle of Purity (Holiness)
The Principle of Perseverance
The Principle of the Word

The Principle of God Given Authority

How do I respond to?

- Success
- Power
- Authority
- Influence
- God's Blessings

The Prosperity Principle

Even as “God given authority” or Power will test your character so will money.

Money is really another form of power

Money will empower us to do certain things and without it we will be limited.

No Slide: Genesis 41:1-7 Interpreting Pharaoh's dreams

- 7 Fat Cows, 7 Skinny Cows – Skinny Cows eat the fat ones
- 7 Plump Heads of Grain, 7 shriveled – they swallowed the plump grains

No Slide: Genesis 41:25-32

- God has shown
- Seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine
- God had a purpose in giving these dreams
- Blessing, deliverance and provision
- **Proverbs 27:23,24** State of your flocks

God wanted to bring this blessing but needed someone who had been tested and had the character to stick with the plan He was going to give them – someone who managed what they had wisely – Joseph was that man

Genesis 41:33-36 Joseph speaking

33 "Now therefore, let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, to collect one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years. 35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that are coming, and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. 36 Then that food shall be as a **reserve for the land** for the seven years of famine which shall be in the land of Egypt, that the land may not perish during the famine." NKJV

Do I manage my money wisely?
Is God first in my financial decisions?
Is my checkbook in disarray?
Do I have a pattern of unrestrained spending?
Do I know how to save and wait?
Am I giving God my best?
Am I tithing off my income? All?

Until you are found faithful in the area of money you will
not be able to handle the destiny God has for you
God's plans for you will always involve bringing His
blessings and provision to others
Does money control me or do I control my money?

Matthew 6:21 NKJV

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

What does my heart say about money?

When I receive money do I...

- Save some, Pay down debt, Give to others
- Can God trust me with more?

Genesis 41:50-52

50 And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, whom Asenath, the daughter of Poti-Pherah priest of On, bore to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house." 52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction." NKJV

The Principle of Pardon

Joseph was 17 when betrayed by his brothers
He was put over the granaries and all of Egypt
when he was 30

7 years of abundance 7 years of famine before he was
reunited with his family

He certainly had reason to feel betrayed and abused

Yet he chose pardon – or forgiveness

Chances are you have had a reason to hold unforgiveness
toward someone who had power over you or affected your
money or promotion

Extending pardon or forgiveness to someone is a decision

We may say – they treated me unfairly

Well of course they did that's why you need to forgive

Jacob (Israel) and his sons come and live in Egypt during
the famine – Pharaoh gives them the best in the land

Israel has grown old and died

Joseph's brothers fear he will now have revenge

Genesis 50:15-21 NKJV

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead,
they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually
repay us for all the evil which we did to him." 16 So they
sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died
he commanded, saying, 17"Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I
beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and
their sin; for they did evil to you.'" Now, please, forgive the
trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And
Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants."

19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- First time the word forgive is used
- Absolve – release fully – bear up or lift up
- Jesus bore or *lifted our sins* off of us

Isaiah 53:11

11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. NKJV

Holding on to unforgiveness is like taking poison and expecting it to harm someone else
When we don't forgive it eats at us

Story of the Unforgiving Debtor – Matthew 18

- Owed millions of dollars
- Begged the king to have mercy on him
- The king forgave him the entire debt
- He then demanded another who owed him to pay
- When he asked for time to pay he had him arrested
- The king heard and called to see him about it

Matthew 18:32-19:1

32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. 35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses." NKJV

- Unforgiveness will keep you locked up in bondage
- Unable to grow spiritually
- Unable to experience the blessings of God
- Unable to see the goodness of God
- It will torture you over and over

Colossians 3:13

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. NKJV

Romans 12:19-21

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

20 Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NKJV

Keys to forgiveness

Release

- Forgive others completely
- Stop looking for justice or vindication
- The same way you have received forgiveness

Receive

- You can not give what you have not received
- Have you truly received forgiveness?
- Do you feel like God is keeping score?
- When you make a mistake do I feel he's there to judge
- When bad things come do you think that God is getting back at me for something?
- God will never "Get back at you"

You can not earn forgiveness

Don't make others earn yours

Romans 3:10-12, 22

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;
11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; NKJV

- We can not earn it
- We should not make others earn it
- Its available to all who believe

No Slide: Matthew 10:8

8 Give as freely as you have received! NLT

Unforgiveness will make you bitter

Ephesians 4:31-32

31 Let all bitterness , wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. NKJV

- Have I received or accepted the Lord's forgiveness?
- Allow Holy Spirit to make your heart tender
- Forgive as you have been forgiven

Believe

- That God has forgiven you
- Past – present – future
- Your sin can not be seen anymore

Many times when we can not forgive it's because we really haven't forgiven ourselves

We can't understand how forgiveness really works

How could God forgive me?

I can't even forgive myself

Psalm 103:12 NKJV

12 As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- They are removed – for good!

Perhaps you are hurting over the things that have happened to you, things that were unjust.

God has made a way for every sin to be forgiven

He has made a way for the hurt to stop

He has made a way for you to be right with Him

Don't allow unforgiveness to keep you from growing in your relationship with God

Allow God to bring reconciliation to you

Allow Him to use you to bring mercy and peace to those who have wronged you

James 3:14-18

14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NKJV

- Bitterness, envy, unforgiveness opens up the door for demonic activity in your life
- Confusion and wickedness – thoughts towards others
- No partiality no hypocrisy
- We need to yield to mercy and bring peace