

Joseph's Lessons Continue!

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[John 6:63 *self profits nothing*; Genesis 37:4 *not a peaceful word heard*; Romans 8:31 *if God is for us—*; Matthew 26:41 *watch and pray*; John 12:24 *if self dies, life results*; Proverbs 22:4 *by humility and fear of the Lord*; Genesis 50:20 *God meant it to save many souls!*]

From an early age, Joseph was committed to doing God's will and giving Him control of every aspect of his life.

We all face some type of persecution; unfair treatment; personal offenses; or unprovoked insults—but they are all valuable *learning lessons* if we will see them as such. Joseph's responses to mean treatment are valuable examples for us today.

Any persecution or trouble we face on earth will *pale* in comparison to the horrible conditions and suffering in Lake of Fire—that is why God is working with us and why He was working with Joseph in teaching him how to respond in a *right* way to *wrong* acts done to him.

It is why God is doing His best to *warn* all people—He wants to *prepare* them for His kingdom by allowing Him to do the needed work of spiritual preparation.

Anyone who has *not* given their life to God has two *enemies* in their heart—enemies that will

eventually *destroy* them and *take* them to the flames if they do not allow God to remove them.

Many people live an *outwardly* good life, but all too many have not been *converted* in heart to remove the sin nature. Therefore, they do not respond to wrongs, offenses, or insults in a scriptural way.

If this control of self is not corrected, it can land them in Hell because Satan is still controlling them.

It is *not* about going through the motions of a Christian life, but it *is* about whether Satan and self are *removed* and *replaced* by the Spirit of Christ. *That* is what counts! No matter how *sincere* we may be, if *self* still *controls* us, everything else AV John 6:63 "*profiteth nothing.*"

God has a *plan* for getting *rid* of the sin nature—that plan was followed to rid Joseph of those enemies—and it began by his responding to his earthly enemies in a scriptural way.

The brothers who acted so wickedly to Joseph were *not* aware of Satan controlling them. Satan was firmly entrenched in their heart from the start—they just didn't know it!

Satan is a *soul slayer*—we must realize how *serious* this situation is! We will then *allow* God to reveal it to us. The way Joseph learned spiritual lessons from God on how to trust Him in faith are as relevant for us *today*, as they were for him *then*.

Joseph's lessons began with jealousy. AV Genesis 37:4 "*When his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.*" This favoritism revealed the wrong *attitudes* in these brothers.

Joseph next had a dream, which basically portrayed his parents and these brothers all bowing down to him. The brothers were outraged to hear of the dream and hated him for telling them.

The first lesson in Joseph being *free* from the control of *self* was to be *hated*, *ridiculed*, and *despised* by his brothers.

If anyone today receives the same harsh treatment, disrespect, and contempt—and it is met as *Joseph* met it—they *too* would be delivered from self and Satan—the two wicked enemies that are bent on destroying them forever!

His ten brothers conspired a *human* plan that would *end* Joseph ever being their boss. *Jealousy* is a serious sin and leads only to *worse* sins! They conspired to murder him, but God was in control and Joseph's life was spared.

A caravan was passing by who bought Joseph as a *slave* and took him to Egypt. This *could* have ended any long-range plans of Joseph ruling over them—if God had not intervened.

It seemed a workable *human* plan at first, but they left out God's *divine* plan—AV Romans 8:31 "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*"

After selling Joseph, these brothers *dipped* his many-colored coat in animal blood, *returned* home, and *lied* to their father Jacob that they did *not* know what happened to Joseph. They said: *We found this coat; it may be his.*

Jacob thought his beloved son was killed by a beast and grieved exceedingly. These brothers show *no remorse* for *lying* and *deceiving* their own father.

Joseph becomes a *slave* to Potiphar of Egypt—who may have been Pharaoh's personal guard. While in this position, God enabled Joseph to *prosper* and Potiphar's house to *thrive* because God's plan was being followed.

After some time went by, Joseph meets with a serious temptation that would really test his loyalty to God. And thanks to God's mercy and grace, Joseph *passed* that test and was able to *run from* temptation.

NKJV **Matthew 26:41** “*Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*”

Even though doing his job faithfully and well, another lesson on temptation was met. The wife of his boss lied about him to clear *herself* and blame *Joseph*—who had refused her advances.

She fabricated a lie and said that this new servant tried to commit a serious crime against her.

Potiphar was furious and threw Joseph into prison. Joseph’s loyalty to God and his wanting to do what was *right*, was used by the devil to land him in prison—even though he was innocent of the allegations.

Joseph prospered in the prison and was appointed as a foreman in charge of other prisoners—but what is prosperity in a prison! Joseph wanted his *freedom* and to be *home* with his family. All this was permitted by *God* who was controlling all *things*.

One day two prisoners look depressed, so Joseph asks them why they were. God was *still* in control, and we can be sure that He is still controlling things in *our* life to bring the results He wants *in us*. That is why we *allow* Him to teach us by obeying His Word when difficult things are met.

The baker and butler explained that poison was found in the Pharaoh’s food, and they did not know who did it, so both were placed in prison until an investigation could be made.

Joseph went from a favored son and free citizen—to a prison cell as a disgraced convict—humiliated beyond words; and yet, not guilty of any wrong-doing. It was as *unjust* as it could be—but it *would* reveal if any of the self-life was still in his heart.

We also must get *rid* of those two enemies within and eliminate all plans of *self* to obtain what we *want*. Joseph had met many *wrong* things in a *right* way, but there was *still* some *self* hidden

deep in his heart—something he did *not know* was there.

When the butler was being released, Joseph innocently says—*Don’t forget the favor I did for you; tell Pharaoh that I’m innocent of the charges.* By that *appeal* to the butler, Joseph turned his *back* on God—it was the sin Adam committed—trying to get his *freedom* by his own *effort*.

Fortunately for Joseph, the butler forgot the favor—because had he obtained his release by following his own self plan, we may not have heard of Joseph, and he *could* have ended in the flames due to not allowing *God* to remove the *sin nature* that controlled his decision to get out of prison in the world’s way.

Two years go by—Joseph *waited*, and *hoped*, and *longed* for some word. Every time he heard footsteps in the hall, Joseph thought this was the release he waited for. But no such word ever came—and at the end of two years, Joseph knew that the butler forgot the favor.

It was the *end* of his human plan to get out of prison—Satan and self were gone. There was no more of Adam’s sin in his heart; no more of *self* probing for a way out; and no more following the *world* to get what he wanted.

We cannot compute how spiritually *valuable* that is—nor how spiritually *important* it was for Joseph.

It is absolutely *necessary* for every human soul to have sin, self, and Satan *removed* in order to be *prepared* for Paradise. AV **John 12:24** “*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.*”

Even after all this learning, God continues to teach Joseph—Pharaoh had a *dream*, which led to Joseph being *released* and *promoted* to governor of Egypt. *That* was the marvelous result of getting rid of *self*—going from a prison to a *palace*!

AV **Proverbs 22:4** “*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.*”

When Joseph got rid of self, God was also able to work in the hearts of his ten brothers—and bringing them to repentance and confession for the wicked attitudes they had in their hearts.

The story is filled with *intrigue*, *tragedy*, and *victory*—human souls being brought to *repentance* and having a living *hope* of Heaven! Nothing is more valuable than that!

There was a family *reunion*—a father who mourned the death of his son, finds out that this son was *alive* and *well* and *governor* of Egypt who was in a position to take care of his entire family through seven years of a *severe* famine.

One person got rid of Satan’s control of their heart—which took him from a dank prison to a position of power in a palace! *Everything* Joseph could have wanted fell into his lap—all because he allowed *God* to control his life!

If God can find *one person* in a home who will allow Him to *deliver* them from Satan’s attitudes, it can result in the saving of the entire family!

And they will be able to say what Joseph said: AV **Genesis 50:20** “*As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*”

Lessons *learned* and spiritual fruit *resulting*—led to *saving many souls*!



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