

## **JOSEPH'S FINANCIAL WISDOM IN THE FAMINE**

**GENESIS 47:13-26**

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The system that was originally designed to temporarily assist individuals below the poverty line has now become a system that supports those who opt out of working, who would rather become dependent on that system and live impoverished lifestyles.

### **1. THE FOOD CRISIS – vv. 13-14**

All the people were starving and languished, (lose their minds, like madmen)! They went to Joseph for a solution. He had been storing up grain for 7 years.

#### **a) Solution 1: Joseph Sells Grain for Money – v. 14**

Joseph charged them for the food they needed to survive the famine. It was their responsibility to pay for goods and services they needed to live on.

### **2. THE MONEY CRISIS – vv. 15-17**

Their economy was bankrupt! This plunged every common citizen way below the poverty line. Another commotion was about to jump off as they went before Joseph and almost in a sense demanded help!

#### **a) Solution 2: Joseph Sells Grain for Livestock – v. 16**

Joseph still refused to allow them to get “something” for “nothing”. He begins bargaining with them to trade something. They said “GIVE!” v. 17

### **3. THE LIFE AND LAND CRISIS – vv. 18-23**

They came to Joseph this time with a little more humility. v. 18b “My lord.”

*19a* Why should you watch us die and our land go to waste with no one to live in it to carry it to the next generation?

#### **a) Solution 3: Joseph Sells Grain for Lives And Land – v. 19b-20**

This wasn't Joseph's idea! It was theirs!!!! They realized, they had to take responsibility for their own lives instead of depending on the government!

Living off the system strips a person of their dignity and self-worth, making them worthless to the advancement of a society. *Pro 30:15; 2 Thess. 3:10-11*

***Lamentations 4:9; Genesis 12:3***

### **4. JOSEPH SETS A LABOR TAX – v. 24 - 26**

**a) The Distribution of The Men! - TAXES TO PAY - 20% Goes to Pharaoh!**  
TAKE HOME PAY – 80% Crops, Food for Them, Household, Grandchildren

**b) The Delight of The Men! -** They were doomed. But now thanks to Joseph they were full of delight and hope for the future.