

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON TEN: JOSEPH – A FAITHFUL STEWARD

I. INTRODUCTION

Among several examples in the Bible, Joseph stands out as a faithful steward of God. His life is recorded primarily in the book of Genesis in chapters 37–50. His life journey took him from being a favored son to a slave, from a prisoner to a ruler, and from a victim of injustice to a savior of nations. Throughout every stage, Joseph exhibited the qualities of a faithful steward.

The remarkable aspect of Joseph's life is that he remained faithful regardless of circumstances. Many can be faithful when life is easy and comfortable, but Joseph was faithful in both prosperity and adversity. He understood that every responsibility entrusted to him came from God and should be managed in a way that honored God as the Owner of all.

II. A FAITHFUL STEWARD IS FAITHFUL EVERYWHERE

Joseph's stewardship began long before he rose to power in Egypt. After being sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph arrived in Egypt with absolutely nothing. Overnight, he lost everything: his family, freedom, possessions, and future prospects. Humanly speaking, his life seemed ruined. Yet Genesis 39 repeatedly emphasizes one comforting truth: “The LORD was with Joseph.” Joseph could have become bitter. He could have refused to work diligently. He could have concluded that faithfulness was pointless. Instead, he served God faithfully.

Genesis 39:2-4, “And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him.”

As a slave, Joseph served faithfully. He did not wait until circumstances improved before becoming diligent. Many believe stewardship applies only when they possess much, but Joseph has proven them wrong that one can be faithful even when he has nothing at all. Stewardship begins with whatever God has already entrusted. Before God entrusts greater responsibilities, He often tests faithfulness in smaller ones.

Faithfulness in present responsibilities prepares us for future responsibilities. Joseph did not become a faithful steward when he reached the palace. He was already a faithful steward in Potiphar's house.

III. A FAITHFUL STEWARD IS FAITHFUL ANYTIME

A. At Work

Genesis 39:6 testifies: “And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat.” Potiphar entrusted everything to Joseph. This reveals the great trust Potiphar has in Joseph. Trust is probably one of the greatest assets a steward can possess. Joseph managed his master's affairs with honesty and diligence. Potiphar recognized that Joseph could be trusted at work. He did not fear at all that Joseph will do anything bad or evil behind his back. He can rest assured fully and trust Joseph for a job well done.

B. In Life

Outside of work, Joseph has also proven himself faithful. One of his greatest tests came through the advances of Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39 records repeated attempts how Potiphar's wife sought to entice Joseph into sin. His response reveals his understanding of biblical stewardship.

Genesis 39:8-9, "Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committeth all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Joseph overcame temptation through his accountability towards God. If he succumbed to the temptation by Potiphar's wife, he may hide from Potiphar but he can never hide from God. Joseph recognized stewardship is ultimately accountability to God. He could have gained temporary pleasure. Instead, he chose faithfulness.

C. During Adversity

After resisting temptation, Joseph suffered injustice as he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife for sexual assault, though he did not. He was thrown into prison. From man's perspective, this is certainly unfair. Joseph had obeyed God, yet he suffered. At this point many might have given up and become bitter toward God. But Joseph remained faithful even in prison. Soon he was entrusted with responsibilities inside the prison itself. The keeper of the prison committed matters into Joseph's hand. This pattern appears repeatedly: Joseph is faithful. People notice. Responsibility increases. This reveals an important stewardship principle. Faithfulness is not dependent upon favorable circumstances. Many are faithful only when life goes well. Joseph remained faithful when life went badly. Faithfulness during adversity is one of the clearest marks of genuine stewardship. Anyone can serve when rewarded. However, faithful stewards serve even when life is tough and unfair.

D. Behaving Humbly

While in prison, Joseph interpreted dreams for Pharaoh's chief butler and chief baker. Later, he also interpreted Pharaoh's dreams. Joseph possessed a God-given ability to understand dreams, but he never claimed personal glory. When Pharaoh sought an interpretation, Joseph responded in Genesis 41:16: "It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace." His response reveals humility. He acknowledged and recognized that his abilities came from God. A faithful steward never treats God's gifts as personal possessions. Instead, he views them as entrusted resources for serving others humbly.

Joseph was eventually released from prison and rose to become governor over Egypt. He became powerful almost overnight. Power often reveals a person's true character. Many remain humble only until they receive promotion and authority. But this is not the case for Joseph. He remained a faithful and humble steward even after he rose in great power. His position did not make him proud. Instead, it increased his responsibility. The higher the position, the greater the accountability. He remained humble throughout as a faithful steward of God.

IV. SUMMARY

The life of Joseph provides one of Scripture's clearest examples of faithful stewardship. He was faithful everywhere and anytime. He served diligently in slavery before leading a nation. He maintained faithful when tempted and suffered injustice. He used his God-given abilities for God's glory. May we likewise be found faithful stewards like Joseph. All glory be to God. Amen.