

THE RETURN OF THE DREAMER

The Legend of Joe Jacobson, Part 2

January 15th, 2012

This question is appropriate in the downtimes of our life, but it maybe even more appropriate in the uptimes of our life

Question: "What would someone in your circumstances do, if they were absolutely certain God was with them"

In all circumstances Joseph was able to maintain this difficult attitude

Throughout this story we find the Scripture stating, "The Lord was with Joseph"

We have discovered that bad things happen even to those who the Lord is with
Matthew 5:45 (NIV) "He [God] causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

John 16:33 (NIV) "[Jesus said] 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'"

This message is very appropriate for most because most of us have been very, very blessed

Wealth & prosperity, compared to poverty, has a greater potential to pull us away from God

When you are in need, you pray; when you have everything you need, you tend not to pray

Genesis 41:1-15

Joseph is facing the opportunity of a lifetime

Why is it in those "once in a lifetime" environments, we become different? We leave our Christianity outside the door

Genesis 41:16-32

Joseph knows his life is not in Pharaoh's hands

Why should I be fearful, less than truthful, and play a game when BIG God is with me when I stand in front of little wanna-be god?

Proverbs 21:1 (NIV) "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases."

Matthew 10:28 (TM) "Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life—body and soul—in His hands."

Genesis 41:33-43

You have no idea what God might do through you, if you lived like Joseph did

Don't allow prosperity to rip away your faith & dependency on God?

Genesis 41:46

The test of prosperity is passed by far fewer people than the test of want and need

How To Live Each As If God Is With You When You Have Everything You Want & Need

1. Go public with your dependency on God

Others need to know this about God and not about me in an appropriate way

If it is difficult for you to bring God into the equation when everything is good, you are failing the test of prosperity

2. Use what you have to help others

God did not bless you because of you, and God did not bless you for you

If you are hoarding or stockpiling what you have been blessed with, that's not being responsible, that's being fearful God won't take care of you

3. Remember where you came from, and remember where you are

Joseph's children were a reminder of how God had worked in his life (see Gen. 41:50-52)

We need unique, visible reminders of what God has brought us from, and what God has brought us to

Prosperity makes you think "you" are something; God says, "No, I am something"

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will find an appropriate way to publicly identify with God
- Because God has blessed me, I will seek ways to bless others
- I will find unique, visible reminders of what God has brought me from, and what God has brought me to
- I will memorize Genesis 39:2, "The Lord was with Joseph & he prospered."