

Joseph - Finding Who We Are In Christ (Part 3)

Friday, November 15, 2020

For the last two weeks we have been on a journey to discover who we are in Christ by following the life of Joseph. Our goal has been to **understand who we are in Christ and how we can grow into the person we were meant to be**

So far, we have learned that our identity in Christ is...

- We are wanted by God and have been created to *"add"* to His Kingdom. *"I am wanted. I will add"*
- We are highly favored and loved by God *"God help me to see how much you love me."*
- God has a plan for our lives and wants to fill us with His dreams (purposes) *"God fill me with YOUR dreams for my life... Show me what they are..."*
- It doesn't matter how old you are, God has plans for you. And it doesn't matter how long you have been waiting, you can't give up on the dreams God has put in your heart. Believe what God has said. Hold on to the things that God has spoken to your heart. The dreams and visions he has planted in you. *"I will not give up; God will fulfill His purpose for me. O' God, finish what you started."*

Next, we said that there will be times when, like Joseph, we will find ourselves in dark times. The enemy wants to strip us of our God given identity and discourage us from fulfilling the purposes for which God created us and to which we have been called. In these times we must hold on to who we are in Christ by...

- Having **HOPE** for better days ahead
- **WALKING** forward in faith one step at a time
- **TRUSTING** that God still has a plan and is still in control
- **PRAISING** God in spite of the pain

Today I want to talk about the next step in Joseph's journey

Potiphar's House

Genesis 39:1-6

39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

²The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, ⁴Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. ⁵From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of

the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. ⁶ So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Potiphar's House - Shaped By SERVANTHOOD

Though the scripture only devotes a few verses to Joseph's time in Potiphar's house the principles that he learned there were a vital part of God's plan for his life. It was here that God shaped him in significant ways; ways in which he also wants to shape us.

The fact is that who we are in Christ requires that God shape us and mold us into the image he wants us to become

Genesis 2:7

⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Isaiah 64:8

⁸ Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Philippians 2:13

¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Video: Gods Chisel

One of the tools that God uses to shape us is Servanthood.

Mark 9:33-35

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" ³⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

³⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

Servanthood shapes us by...

- Instilling a heart of humility

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

- Exposing the dangers of pride

James 4:6 reminds us that...

James 4:6

6 But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”

Daniel 5:20

20 But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

- Teaching us the value of hard work

2 Thessalonians 3:10

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”

Proverbs 14:23

23 All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.

- Shifting our focus from ourselves to others

Philippians 2:4 (ESV)

4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

What is the secret to happiness?

The list of nominees is the same for almost everyone: income, health, family, success.

*Results of a [Harvard study](#), however, indicate that the answer is none of the above.
What is it, then?*

*Volunteering to help others. **Another way to say it: Serving.***

Research conducted by Dr. Eric Kim concludes that people over the age of 50 who volunteer to help others for at least 2 hours a week have a higher sense of well-being than those who don't.

And it goes beyond a sense of well-being. Helping others is a catalyst toward other lifestyle benefits, such as lower risk of death, a lesser chance of health-related complications, and increased physical activity.

Dr. Kim says that serving others doesn't just strengthen communities, it also "enriches our own lives by strengthening our bonds to others, helping us feel a sense of purpose and well-being, and protecting us from feelings of loneliness, depression, and hopelessness."

Maybe this is one reason why Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than receive: Your gift of service to others come back your way, in full measure, even running over. [Acts 20:35, Luke 6:38]

In the words of King Solomon...

Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)