



#9 – Heal a Family / Build a Nation

11/08/2009 - Jim Johnson – Gen. 41:41-52

God gives us dreams, prepares us for them and when we are ready, He permits us to live them. In Genesis 41 we watch as Joseph begins to experience his.

A. The public Joseph was a successful man. - 41-49

1. Joseph was _____ . – 41-42

Pharaoh placed Joseph in charge of the only world power in existence at that time. He made it tangible when he gave him his own signet ring, which was like receiving the signature stamp of the king. He was clothed with the finery of royalty and given gold as his wealth.

2. Joseph was _____ . – 43-44

As Joseph rode through the streets in chariot #2, runners would go before him and shout, “Bow the knee.” Every citizen would fall to one knee & reverently drop their head as Joseph would pass.

3. Joseph was _____ . – 45

Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name which meant, “God speaks and lives.” He gave him a wife as well from the family that provided the wives to the kings of Egypt. He married into the upper crust.

4. Joseph was _____ . – 46-49

Joseph’s prophecy became history. The Nile flooded her valley with water and rich soil for 7 years. The land brought forth abundant food. Joseph made sure that 20% of the yield was put away each year into special storage cities. Those who knew about the dream grew in their admiration of Joseph.

After 13 years of difficult and disappointing preparation, Joseph was finally ushered into the era of his greatness. There was every evidence that he was enjoying every minute of it.

B. The _____ Joseph. – 50-52

God withheld the privilege of fatherhood from Joseph until he and Asenath had been married 7 years. His first born was a little boy whom they named Manasseh. (50-51) Manasseh means, “*God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.*” When God gave him his own son, that son seemed to take some of the sting out of his years of suffering. The private Joseph was given a sweet, rich moment of joy with the birth of his son.

God blessed him with a second son they named Ephraim, which means, “*God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.*” (52) Joseph was prosperous in every way. So he named his son Ephraim to reflect it. God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction. The private Joseph was aware of his blessings and grateful for every one of them. The private Joseph found great delight and joy in his boys.

ON THE OTHER HAND

He named his first boy Manasseh. *"God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household."* The name alluded to all of Joseph's troubles (his betrayal, and enslavement, and imprisonment and the exile from his home) - It appears that his bouncing baby boy brought some joy into his life and yet he gave him a name filled with trouble. He gave that boy a name that would be a constant reminder of his troubles. His name would become a thorn that would evoke those bad memories. - Ephraim was similar. Ephraim means *"God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."* His name became a constant reminder that Joseph had been betrayed and dragged off to a foreign land - A reminder that his whole experience in Egypt was an affliction.

Though the public Joseph was successful, the private Joseph was very _____.

ANALYSIS: Joseph learned a lesson early on that most of us learn when it's too late to do something about..

We can't enjoy success when the family is _____.

That is not to say that we can't succeed if we have a broken family; BUT it is to say that we can't enjoy that success. Joseph was outrageously successful but was deeply grieved inside. All the success in the world could not compensate for the fact that he had been cruelly rejected by his family and exiled to a foreign land. The same is also true of us. It is hard to enjoy your success when the family is broken. Is there anything we can do about it?

1. Find _____ from the Lord.

You may have come from a broken family. Perhaps the family member that hurt you has now passed on. Even so - don't despair. Joseph tried to stay focused on what was right in his life rather than what was wrong. He savored God's blessings. The pain was still there, but it was made more bearable by focusing on what was right rather than what was wrong. The Lord can and will provide what you need to manage and even overcome. Find your consolation in Him. Ask Him to touch and heal the scars in your life.

2. Build _____ to your family.

You may have come from a broken place, but the family that hurt you is still around. If so – pray, and then reach out. Start building bridges. Offer tangible expressions of love to the person that hurt you. Do this over time and there may come a day when you are able to have a really good and honest conversation about the past – a conversation that will lead to healing.

3. _____ your family.

Give your children what they need. They need you to model a Christ like life, to read to them and teach them, to cheer them when they play soccer, to drive them to church every Sunday, to listen to them, to get in their face when they go astray, to hear you say, "I love you." and occasionally "I was wrong, will you forgive me?" Build a home like this today – and you are likely to be a happy parent in the years to come.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. If you were to give your children names that reflected your state of mind (as Joseph did) what would those names be?
2. What could you do to build bridges to the family from which you came?
3. What can you do to strengthen the bridges to the family in your care?