

***Nº 1***

The Strong,  
the Brave, and the Wise  
(The Forerunners of Faith)

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Genesis 37:1-11

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# *Joseph*

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Genesis 37:1-11



## INTRODUCTION

We are happy if we have faith that we are children of God. There is nothing happier than living with God. The world cannot provide this elation, nor can the world take it away. We always have this sense of happiness that we have become God's children. You can tell whether someone is a true Christian just by looking at their face. Their faces overflow with a sense of happiness. You must know that there is something wrong in the spiritual life of someone whose face is not overflowing with happiness. It is not forced happiness. During this conference, though I had times of difficulty on some nights, when I open my eyes in the morning, the presence of God overwhelms me and I am so happy. I even found myself listening to a certain gospel singer that I used to listen to a long time ago, and praise just flows from my lips. It is indescribable joy. The child of God is happy. No one can take it away, and no one can give it, except God alone. Lord, we are so thankful.

As long as we are not influenced by other forces due to our bondages, all of us, myself included, are always happy. We mustn't let that happiness be taken away, but as we will see, it is fleeting because of our bondages. We lose our happiness because there are too many other forces at work within us. Our happiness is because God himself is so good, not because things work out well, or because something is good, and confessions of our happiness should flow freely. For people in the world who reach my age, they don't have much to be happy about. They retire, and if they are done raising their children, they try to live for the joys of this world. So, those who have money play golf, and those who do not have money play gateball and get caught up in those things. But we must truly be happy, and for that to happen, we must not be bound.

As we talk about Joseph, we will take a look at our own lives. We will examine whether our lives are in line with God's best scenario for us, and if not, then we have to figure out why.



## BODY

Joseph appears in Genesis chapters 37, 39, 40, 41, 43, 45, and 50. We will not look at all of these passages, but we will look at the important parts.

### *GENESIS 37*

First, we will focus and touch on wounds. Wounds are the most dangerous aspect in regards to God's scenario, of the trajectory of life that he has given for our lives. Anyone who has wounds will not allow any person – including God – to touch them, because it hurts. And they end up ignoring their own wounds as they live their lives. If a stranger walking by shouted, “You jerk!” you wouldn't get hurt, although some might. But fundamentally, wounds are given by those close to us. In particular, the worst culprits would be our parents. Wounds by parents, relationships with siblings, with church members, and possibly from the pastor? There are some

people in our church who have wounds because of me, who blame me for their troubles.

**FIRST, JOSEPH DID NOT HAVE WOUNDS, BECAUSE HE CHOSE NOT TO BE WOUNDED.**

Verse 2: These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.

**And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father:**

From a worldly standpoint, and even biblically, it does not seem like a good thing to tattle. But in this case, we can't call this tattling. Why not? Tattling is, without knowing the faults of yourself or the other person, the telling of another person's sin out of your own state of sinfulness. But in this case, Joseph's brothers were really being rebellious against their father, and that is what he reported to him. Joseph did this for the sake of the entire community, which is their family. This is because Joseph was one who was completely obedient, but his brothers were always shirking their duties. Therefore, it was for the sake of the community of family

members that Joseph told his father.

What is the fundamental reason why Joseph is able to point out and tell his father of his brothers' sins? He had no problem in his relationship with his father. He had no wounds from his father. As you all know, there are some people in our church who still have a hard time submitting to leadership. If you cannot submit to leadership, no matter whose leadership it is, I'm sorry to say that you are suffering immense loss in life. Look at Joseph's life. You know his story, that in his relationship with his father, he received and gave back love and it became a relationship of obedience. Therefore, no matter where he went, he was always acknowledged by the highest leaders. Of course, this is a blessing that comes from his relationship with God. There are people who think, "I'm okay as long as I have a good relationship with God." Yes, this is fine. But if you have a right relationship with God, your relationship with other leaders must also be right. The fact that your relationships with other leaders are not right shows that your relationship with God is also not right. You mustn't misunderstand this. Joseph was always acknowledged by his leaders wherever he went – from Potiphar, in prison, and ultimately with Pharaoh. What is the root? He had a right relationship of leadership with his

father.

Those of you who have wounds from your father need to know that this is fatal to your life. At Yulbang Church, do you think your life can go well if you are not acknowledged by me? If so, then God has placed me here for nothing. What I am saying is really important. I am not saying this from the standpoint that pastors are something special. The reason why God placed me here is to be his representative in blessing and leading you. So it is nonsense to think that you can receive blessings and life will go well without submitting to my leadership. In a way, the people who have left our church in the past 25 years were those who were not acknowledged by my leadership. Even now, if your relationship with God is right, then you will naturally submit to my leadership, and you should be acknowledged by me. If you get a job but you butt heads with your boss every day, then it's over. You should be recognized by your leaders wherever you go. But the reason for not being able to is not because it is forced, but it is from your relationship with your father. This is so important.

This part should have already been healed, by now. So the final problem that was resolved for me after meeting God was my relationship with my father. Once that was resolved,

I no longer hated anyone. Once that wound was resolved, my life began following God's trajectory and became so much easier. And wherever I went, I was acknowledged by my leaders. If I went to a small church, I was acknowledged. When I was at a big church, they don't easily give out the young adult pastor position, but the head bishop gave me that role. And soon after that, I said I was leaving the church, so how much would he have hated to see me? But he said to me, "There is an opening at a church in Daejeon. Do you want to go?" So I told him, "No, God told me to plant a church," and I left. After being healed of the wounds from my father, I acknowledged all kinds of leaders, so wherever I went, I was always acknowledged by the leadership. When I was a lay person and working, I was acknowledged by my boss, etc. This did not happen by chance.

The very first step to a right relationship with God, where you have no problems in the area of him governing you, is having a right relationship of leadership with your father. Those of you who experience problems with your leaders wherever you go, if you look closely, the common thread will almost invariably be problems with the leadership of your father or mother. God doesn't put these leaders in your life for no reason: at work, it will be your boss, and at school,

your teachers. Looking back to when I was a student, I can't think of one instance where a student did well in school when they had strained relations with their teacher. I was like that. I was never close to teachers growing up. Instead of "teacher", I referred to them as "oldies (boomer)". "Hey, is the boomer here?" That is how I referred to them. Because I wasn't good at school, I couldn't get close to my teachers. And because I wasn't close to them, I couldn't do well in school. At that time, I did not have a private tutor. The high school I attended sent the most students to Seoul National University (#1 ranked school in Korea) every year at that time, so the tutoring fees for these teachers were astronomical. My father had a lot of money then, and I was tutored by a teacher, along with the daughter of the president of Korea at the time. So I knew what the college entrance exam schedule would be. "The president's daughter is finishing up her studies in ethics. Now the test will change." I knew these things ahead of time. But even still, I was not close to my teachers. Why not? It was because of the wounds from my father, but I did not know that then. That was before I met Jesus, but it was impossible for me to submit to any kind of leadership. There are people here who don't submit to anyone's leadership but mine. That shouldn't happen, and you need healing.

This is a very important point. If you want to live a blessed life, everywhere you go, you must always submit to the leadership there and be acknowledged by the leader. That is the evidence that you have a right relationship with God. So, if you don't have a right relationship with God, could you have right relationships with other leaders? That would be meaningless, unnecessary, and impossible. But you could ask, "Well, I think I have a right relationship with God, so why is it this way?" These things are due to wounds regarding your father. And these wounds keep you from being able to ever submit to any kind of leadership. There are people like this: they are so capable in all things, but they are rejected by their leader and bullied, and nobody wants to acknowledge that person. This is due to that person's wounds from their father. But another person who does not work very hard, strangely gets acknowledged. People want to treat that person well. Why is that? That person is in complete submission to their leadership and it shows they have a right relationship with their father. This is very spiritual.

Joseph had established a right relationship with his father, so now look at him in all the events that subsequently happened. Does he get wounded? Does Joseph go and reconcile with his brothers later on after being healed of

his wounds? No. Look closely at the Scripture. Joseph was never hurt. He did not have wounds from his father, and because his relationship with God in terms of leadership and supremacy had been established, he was naturally able to accept God's providence. So in the scene where he is sold into slavery, he does not obstinately protest, saying, "No, I'm not going to die! No! No!" He does not object. He accepts God's providence and does not choose to be hurt. At Potiphar's house, when Potiphar's wife seduces him, he is unjustly sent to prison after rejecting her. Even then, he does not say, "That's not fair," nor does he fight back saying, "I'm innocent!" Rather, he accepts it as if it were natural. There is no hint of the power of hostility or rejection in Joseph. He never chooses hurt. So why do we choose hurt? Fundamentally, the problem is either the father or the mother, but ultimately, it is because there is hurt. In fact, other hurts don't really cause any issues. Other wounds are easily resolved, and it is possible to recognize them. But wounds from our parents begin from inside the womb, making it difficult to recognize and requires the Holy Spirit's illumination.

Verse 3: Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age.



And he made him a robe of many colors.

Joseph received unconditional love from his father. Of course, all parents love their children, but many of us were not loved in this way. But relationship with God is like this – his love for us is so special. But the reason we cannot receive God’s love is because the love of our fathers is so limited. Because of the wounds from our fathers, our fathers’ bondages, and the ways we grew up judging our fathers, we have lived thinking, “Father, nope. Ding! Ding! Ding!” On top of that, if your father is rebellious, getting drunk and a philanderer, you judge your father more. People who live with this kind of bondage find it very difficult to reject sin. When your father’s love is stifled, your spiritual immune system becomes weak. But there is no reason for deliberately looking through your life and bringing up the wounds from your father. You do not need to force yourself to think and pray about these things, saying, “God, I have these kinds of hurts from my father,” but rather, you need the Holy Spirit to illuminate these things to you. Let’s say I was wounded by my father when I was three years old. Then, I need to go back to when I was three years old, transcending time and space through the Holy Spirit. Then you must vomit out the pain and hurt that you had

received at that time. Because you do not live with the Holy Spirit, this kind of healing does not occur.

The Holy Spirit always reveals the goodness of God. What is this goodness of God? The Holy Spirit always illuminates the broken parts of this goodness within me. This is because he cannot bear to see God's goodness being broken in any way within me. That is why he is always enlightening me. Thus, even though it was against the law to work on the Sabbath, Jesus works. Why? Because goodness was broken. In John 5:17, Jesus said, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." Even the Father should not work on the Sabbath, but because his goodness is broken, he also works on the Sabbath. It is not the Sabbath that is important, but he is resolving the source of sin and wounds that have broken his goodness.

The leadership from his relationship with his father is the fundamental reason why Joseph's life became most beautiful. Look carefully in the Bible at all the subsequent events that happen. Joseph was not hurt and then healed, but he is a man who never once chooses hurt. Whether he is at Potiphar's house or in prison, he never once chose hurt. "How could that be possible?" As a spiritual principle, he is able to not choose hurt, because he did not have wounds regarding

his father. And I have stated that this kind of person will have a strong spiritual immune system. He doesn't fall, even when Potiphar's wife seduces him. Joseph has the strength to resist sin. This is the reverence of God, so from that aspect, we must focus on uncovering and healing our wounds regarding our fathers.

It's not that we are wounded because our fathers are inherently bad, there are people who have good fathers but still choose hurt. So fundamentally, you need to get to a place where you can repent for choosing to be hurt by your father. Fundamentally, you have chosen to be wounded by your father or mother. Those who have been hurt by their mothers are daily tripped up by the works of Jezebel. It is impossible for these kinds of people to ask God for their needs. They try to figure it out themselves no matter what. Those with father wounds fundamentally reject love. Essentially, fathers provide love and mothers provide our needs. God possesses aspects of both the father and mother, providing love and filling our needs. If there is a breakdown in either one of these, then our lives become difficult. We must receive love and have our needs met by God. This is the very simple relationship between God and his children. We just need to ask God and receive, ask and receive – it is so simple.

It is clear that it is God's grace to be acknowledged by his father's leadership, but Joseph did not choose to be hurt. You could think, "Oh, it because Jacob loved Joseph so much." But like I said, no matter how good a father is, there are many people who still choose to be hurt. Because of worldly tendencies, when a person's ego begins to form, they begin to judge their father. Joseph truly accepted the love of his father. Nevertheless, it is also the grace of God.

## **SECOND, JOSEPH WAS NOT WOUNDED BECAUSE HE HAD GOD'S DREAM.**

Starting in verse 6, we can see that Joseph had God's dream, and he does not receive the world's hurts. It is not his own dream, but rather God's vision. What shall we say when we are talking about vision here? We must talk about it alongside faith. Joseph had received God's dream in faith. He was a man who had faith. It is not simply hope by itself, but faith, hope, and love cannot be separated. If a person has hope, then he will also have faith, and if he has faith, then he will also have love. Faith, hope, and love can never be separated. Thus, if you lack hope, then you do not have faith. It is not possible for you to lack faith if you have hope.

It is not possible for you to have love but not hope. Faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love, means that they all come inside love. The Joseph has God's dream means that he has God's faith. That faith allowed him to become the spiritual man who was able to sufficiently and continually accept all of the scenarios God brought his way throughout his life. If you do not have faith, even if you believe in Jesus and attend church, your faith will be damaged. You will lack God's hope and dream. So for this kind of person, it is always easy to fall, and it is difficult for them to accept what God has set up for them.

This is not an easy story, even though we know all of Joseph's scenarios. His hardships began at the age of 17 and lasts until he is 30 years old. To put it bluntly, his life was turned upside down for 13 years, through no fault of his own. We would have despaired a thousand, ten thousand times saying, "Ugh, what's the use believing in God?" Forget 13 years, if we went through 13 months of suffering, we probably would have left the church. But in 13 years of suffering, not once do we see Joseph turning away from God or rejecting the trajectory that God set before him, or making a scene saying, "No, I don't like this!" There is never any kind of disobedient energy in him. This is Joseph's exact likeness

to his grandfather. His grandfather Isaac did not object even when his own father laid him on the altar as a burnt offering. If you thrash around in the face of hardship and struggle as if you did nothing wrong, you will sink deeper and deeper as if you were drowning in a pit. Whatever the hardship, Joseph remained still. He probably walked into prison on his own. Because he had God's faith, he was able to naturally accept life's scenarios as God laid it out for him. Thus, he doesn't sink into the pit. Because he does not react in his own strength, he is able to accurately know the meaning of his suffering and he was sufficiently able to endure that time in faith. Therefore, he did not despair.

What is the reason for despair? We despair because the power of the hardship is greater than our own strength. Because Joseph has no energy loss, at no time does he succumb to despair no matter how great the suffering that comes his way. In looking at Joseph's life, you should not think, "Wow, what an amazing life." Rather, fundamentally, this is the very picture of the life of a person of faith. For many, it is because they do not have faith that they are not able to accept all of the life scenarios that God sets for them. In their own strength, they resist, reject, and struggle, sinking deeper into the pit. Thus, faith is very important. And

because Joseph has faith, he naturally has God's hope. People who do not have faith cannot have God's vision or hope. When I meet with people, most say their vision is one way or the other, but it is all their own dream, not God's. What is distinctly God's dream? It comes along with faith and along with love. However, mustering up your strength and effort to fulfill it is not God's vision, but rather your own. And if you have received God's vision in faith, you will never be shaken. All of the forerunners of faith were like this, but Joseph had that vision for his life and did not show any hint of wavering or struggling no matter what hardship came, but held onto God's vision for his life and kept running forward. He never deviated from the orbit God wanted for him. We could say that the Spirit of God was in Joseph because God was with him, which also refers to God's presence. In the same way, if we do not go against the Spirit of God, we can also live like this.

What is the most important thing in Joseph's life?  
Obedience.

Verse 12: Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

Verse 13: And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers

pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

Verse 14: So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

At this time, Joseph is living in Hebron. The distance from Hebron to Shechem is about 100 km. This is not an easy task for a 17-year old young man to accomplish, but he does not tell his father that he does not want to go. He obeys.

Verse 15: And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?”

Verse 16: “I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.”

Verse 17: And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

The important thing is that Joseph went, but his brothers were not there. So he could have gone back to his father and told on his brothers, “They were goofing off and weren’t there.” But in order to obey his father’s words, he goes all the



way to Dothan.

By appearance, this obedience could seem to be what brings misfortune to Joseph. Why? Had he not gone there, he would not have been sold into slavery. But this obedience was the acceptance of all of God's scenarios directed toward Joseph, not "Ugh, how unlucky that I went there and now I've been sold into slavery." Those who have strong self-power can never accept God's scenarios for them because of the powers of opposition, refusal, and disobedience are so strong. But because Joseph did not have self-power, whatever circumstance came his way – whether good or bad – he accepted God's scenario. I said this during 2 Corinthians. God is Creator God. God has written the entire screenplay of his child's entire life like a perfect movie. Our lives are never about doing what we want or taking the path we want to take. God has the very best scenario for each and every one of your lives. Then we should take our freewill and receive these things in faith, living out the best lives that God desires for us to live. If you look at Joseph's entire life, it all worked out that way.

Verse 28: Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the

Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

Incredibly, slave traders were already set in place, and:

Verse 36: Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

When they reached Egypt, the slave traders sold Joseph, and he was sold to Potiphar's house of all places. All of this is within God's scenario. When he got to Potiphar's house, not only was there a good leader like Potiphar, but in chapter 39, the vicious wife of Potiphar was also prepared. When the Lord said, "Peter, you will deny me three times before the rooster crows," but a rooster just happened to be in Jerusalem that dawn. In this way, God sets up everything throughout your life.

Then, when he goes to prison, among the many prisons, there is no way a slave could be sent to the prison where the king's prisoners go. But that is where God locks Joseph up. And in time, high ranking officials are sent there. In all of these scenarios of God, Joseph never rejects any of it saying, "No, this is unfair." Imagine if Joseph had fought back at Potiphar's house, saying, "It's because your wife is immoral.

I am so upset. I didn't even do anything," and a fight broke out and he didn't end up there. Then God's scenario would change. These things happen all the time in our lives. It is not easy for people without faith to accept these scenarios of God, because they think that God's blessing is taking what looks good to the eye and what they think is good. That is why there are definitely people here who look and act this way.

As a man of obedience, Joseph had no power of disobedience. In the life of faith, who is the easiest person for the antichrist to move? They are the people who have strong power of disobedience. To be hostile, you may not say it with your mouth, but by your actions, it is the same as if you were saying, "May curses rain down." This is so basic, but let's put an end to these basics today. In living with Creator God, who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and transcends time and space, does it make sense that we cannot live according to his providence in which he works out the scenarios of my life into his best life? It would be better to go to a Buddhist temple and hit a wooden gong. It is not difficult to live with Creator God. "How can I?" You simply have to obey.

The important thing is that later in Genesis 39, it says that Joseph's life is successful. "But God, Joseph had to go through such immense suffering. How can you say his life was

successful?” What is success? Success is becoming a soul that can accept God’s scenarios. It’s not about whether your life has suffering or not, or whether you make a lot of money or not, but whether a soul is able to accurately accept all of life’s scenarios that God has set for you – this is success. All of God’s children should live successful lives. But because we have things like rebelliousness, wounds, the spirit of worldliness, immorality, etc., we are unable to accept God’s scenarios. As you hear these words, don’t feel guilty, but I’m saying let’s repent; let’s accurately follow God’s course correction and walk with him. This isn’t something that your pastor wants, but what God passionately desires. Isn’t this why his Son personally came and cut off all of our curses, so that we could live according to all of God’s scenarios? It is finished, but why can’t we do it? We have no reason not to, because it is already finished. Rebellion – let’s cast it all away today.

So while obeying his father, Joseph is finally captured and almost killed. But he is sold to Midianite traders. Joseph could have said, “Listening to my father brought my life to ruin.” But in that situation, there is not a hint of resentment nor grumbling nor despair in Joseph. He accepts this providence at once. This means that he did not choose hurt. If he had chosen hurt, this could not have happened. If he had

chosen hurt, he would have struggled, yelling, “Save me!” or he would have said, “I’m not a slave!” when being sold, but he did not. This is a man who did not choose hurt. How many insignificant things have we chosen to be wounded by? Hence, our lives cannot go in the scenarios that God wants for us. It is possible that even today, you chose so many hurts. When someone says something, you get hurt, if someone says they don’t like you or rejects you, you get hurt – it’s a total minefield. You have chosen to be so wounded that you can’t be touched anywhere.

### *CHAPTER 38*

This is Judah’s story.

### *CHAPTER 39*

We will look at success.

Verse 2: The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

**The Lord was with Joseph:** The important thing is that

God is with Joseph. I talked about faith, but isn't faith the evidence of God being with you? Using our own terminology, it is the fullness of the Spirit, the presence of God. The most important thing is that, for the figures in both the Old and New Testaments, the basic way of life is the status of the fullness of the Holy Spirit, of not going against the Spirit of God and maintaining the status of the presence of God, through faith. Why do you end up getting bound, living by your own strength instead of being able to accept God's best scenario, and experience so much suffering in your life? It is because you are not filled by the Spirit. Success means that your life enters the state of being able to fulfill all of God's plans for your life. This kind of person only needs the fullness of the Holy Spirit. When you are filled by the Holy Spirit, your life can't help but go along the path of God's best scenario for you.

**The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful:** This is an ironclad rule in the Bible: "If God is with you, you will prosper." Hence, there is no need to struggle to be successful. If God is with you, you will prosper. Whatever direction life takes you, however God leads you, whomever you encounter, whether you face hardship or tribulation – if God is with you, you are successful. It is very

easy. I think the Bible is too easy. It does not require us to beat a wooden gong a thousand times, nor fast a certain number of days; there is nothing like that in the Bible. There is a problem if you do not find it easier to live with God as you continue to live with him. That means that your flesh is growing stronger. Living with God is truly very easy. It is very very happy.

Verse 3: His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

The embodiment of Joseph's faith that God was with him was so powerful that now the unbelieving Potiphar can see it. Potiphar doesn't say, "Wow, the presence of God has come," but he can see that no matter what Joseph does, "Wow, how did that happen? That could not have worked if it wasn't God." God being with him has been embodied in his life. He has never failed in the area of God being with him. Thus, he doesn't get wounded, and thus, he never rebels against God's providence in any condition, and there is no act of struggling in his life. Examine Joseph's life, whether you can find any kind of struggling or wrestling or attempt to do things his own way. It is not there. This is how he became successful.

Because God was with him, Joseph prospered, and his reverence for God reached its peak. When you maintain the fullness of the Holy Spirit, because he is a Spirit of reverence, you will come to know the reverence of God more than anything. Proverbs 1:7a says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” “The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil (Pr 8:13a).” “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Pr 9:10a).” The fear of the Lord makes your immune system powerful against sin and evil. When that reverence reaches its peak, then it’s not easy to have even the slightest bit of disobedience. Why do we sin so easily? It is because we do not fear God.

Verse 6: So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything. Because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Potiphar leaves everything to him without getting involved in anything other than the food he ate. Why? Because God was with Joseph, he did all of his work very shrewdly. More than doing his work well, God caused Potiphar to be pleased with whatever Joseph did. My first job when I was at a



megachurch was to transcribe and edit the senior pastor's sermons for the newspaper. This was a position that every staff member had left in tears. I was in that position for three months. Of course, it was my wife who did the transcribing for me, but while I had that position, I was never scolded. But more than my wife transcribing well, God moved the senior pastor's heart, and he said, "Hey, you're really good at this." So after just three months, I passed and was moved to another department. The important thing is that I prayed for the senior pastor, and from within his leadership, I prospered and was acknowledged. Joseph doing a good job was not at the level of, "Joseph was a shrewd worker. He did an excellent job," but rather, God moved Potiphar's heart. No matter what he did, God made it look favorable. As such, love and hate have no logic. When a beloved child eats, you comment, "Oh, you're eating so well!" but when someone whom you detest eats, you say, "You eat like a pig." In the same way, logic does not apply to love and hate. Whatever Joseph did, God made it so it looked pleasing. And since his master acknowledged him for everything he did, he was excited and grew in confidence. And in time, his work grew more excellent – this is how it works out.

**Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.**

Just like all movies, the lead is always handsome, does well, and is excellent. So can we objectively say that Joseph was truly handsome in form and appearance? No. We have to look at it as God used him in that way. No matter what form a child of God has, we can see that they become outstanding in form and appearance when God uses them. You are not born outstanding, and even if you were, if you are not living in the Spirit, you don't enter my line of vision. But if you stand in the Spirit of God, then your excellence is made visible.

This also becomes the enemy's target. Just as being the recipient of his father's love made his brothers hate him, the enemy is jealous because God loves him. Who is it that does the enemy's work? It is Potiphar's wife. So Potiphar's wife begins to seduce Joseph.

And one day, she gets her chance.

Verse 11: But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house,

Verse 12: She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

There was nobody around and Joseph was alone in the house with Potiphar's wife. She says to Joseph, "Lie with me," and chaos ensues. At an age when he is full of vigor, he is harassed not just once or twice, but every day. Even in the face of this daily temptation, Joseph does not choose sin. Why not? What I mentioned before: wounds, God's faith, etc., all of these are combined into his present state.

Because he feared God, in verse 9:

Verse 9: "He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

**"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"** His soul had reached the state of being able to protect God's holiness. Thus, he is able to accurately accept God's scenarios. Then this deed should lead to blessing, but instead, Joseph goes to prison because of this. How can this be success? Success, as I've stated, is becoming a soul that can fulfill God's scenarios. If it is a matter of facing trials and suffering for his own sins, there is nothing to talk about. For God's people, the more they try to live holy lives, they

will invariably face hardships up to a certain point. This is normal. A person who recognizes God's providence and accepts that scenario does not define what has unfolded before him as a blessing or a disaster, until a certain time. Just being with God, that in itself is a blessing. When that happens, no energy of disobedience comes out.

Verse 20: And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

Potiphar finally comes home. Potiphar knows that his wife is immoral. So instead of a normal prison, he sends Joseph to the prison where the king's prisoners go. This is possible only because Joseph remained within the scenario that God had chosen. If he had committed sexual sin there, then God's scenario would have had to change. Take a look at the path of your own life. Is my life the best scenario that God has set up? Or second best, third, fourth....tenth, twelfth, 13th... 100th scenario? I'm not saying this to cause despair, but I'm saying let's repent. Joseph accepts all of these scenarios of God, whether hardships or tribulations, in faith. For that to happen, there must be no wounds. If you have wounds, it

is impossible to accept these kinds of scenarios from God. It is not that I go already knowing all the scenarios, but it is continuing to grow in holiness, and going with the faith and acceptance of the scenarios set by God.

At the very least, even if you do not know in detail what scenarios God has set for your life, if you continue to live accepting God's scenarios, you will come to know this: At some point, you will come to know, "Ah, it is all over. I will be able to get on God's normal trajectory now." If you continue in faith along the path that God has set before you, when the time comes, you will come to know, "Ah, I've arrived on the normal trajectory." Being able to see these normal trajectories on this earth is glorification and the Sabbath-rest stage of faith. When Joseph entered this scenario, he was not sent to a normal prison but to the prison for the king's prisoners. God's providence is being opened to him.

Verse 21: But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

**But the Lord was with Joseph:** Every time Joseph has victory in faith by accepting God's scenarios, something in

his life keeps adding up one by one. It is the same with you as well. If you obey in faith and take one step after another in victory, your relationship with God does not remain flat, but God keeps adding good things one by one.

The Lord gave him success, but now that is not all. **And showed him steadfast love;** this is hesed. Strictly speaking, hesed was made at the stage of covenantal love, after the covenant was made on Mount Sinai, which was after Israel's departure from Egypt, but Joseph, who lived long before the Exodus, was endowed with this hesed. In terms of timing, this is God's breakaway. This is something that doesn't happen until after the twelve tribes are formed, and much later after that, but God has already bestowed hesed. "I will pour this grace and love on you like water." Every time you keep taking step after step in faith, God keeps adding on to what he gives, one by one. With each victory, it becomes easier for you to enter the normal trajectory. Conversely, if you disobey and rebel, the power of darkness grows stronger, and when those scenarios continue to fail, it becomes more difficult to stay on course. Life is about continuing in faith along the scenarios that God has chosen to set before you. But this does not happen because we weaken the power of faith and strengthen the powers of darkness and our own strength.

I can't speak for all people, but when you believe in God, you will be able to see to the end of your life. Glorification, Sabbath-rest of faith – aren't we all heading in that direction? This is how you all have eaten the word. Regular churches don't even talk about these things, but until the day you die, the end of our lives means attaining glorification and Sabbath rest, although we should attain it before then. I didn't set it up this way, but it is because God has predestined this to happen that we are going. God allowed us to live with such an amazing goal for our lives, so do you think God would say, "Just give it a try"? No. He sets everything up first. Let's say you are trying to get to Busan. If you just take the Gyeonggi-Busan (Gyeong-Bu) expressway and follow the signs, you will arrive in Busan. How fast you go is another matter, but you will get there. This is the same. God sets up the trajectory of your entire life and continues to show you the milestones to guide you to that end. But instead of going that way, you ignore it, saying, "Oh, this way will be quicker." This is what causes your life to go astray. You just need to depart from here, go through Daejeon, then through Daegu, and then arrive in Busan. But these losers go toward Pyeongtaek, then to Mokpo, and then on the southern coastal expressway toward Busan, they get in an accident and never make it. You

must be able to see your life. This message is being given by God for you to be able to see your lives.

Finally, since steadfast love is added, God gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Now the grace God gives is coming through a person. You should not read this lightly. That he received favor from the prison warden means that Joseph felt God through whatever the warden said or did. “God is doing that.” “God is speaking.” The warden comes and says, “Joseph, you’re going through a lot. Here, eat this.” The moment he receives it, tears gush from his eyes, “God has prepared this for me.” And in this way, he receives grace. Or, if I were to say, “Stop sleeping. Wake up and pray,” you would be able to say, “Ah, God is awakening me,” and receive grace that way. Whatever you do, you do not choose hurt. Those who can’t do it, think that grace is only when things go well, but that is not the case. So there is no need to choose hurt. You must see how these things make life become so beautiful.

We are looking at why Joseph was able to accurately go on the path that God laid for him in the face of such hardships. On the other hand, why is everything so entangled and so difficult? It is because we do not go along the path of life, so our own strength grows more powerful. In light of this, life is pretty wonderful. We are building life together



with God. We are going together with God in faith through the wonderful scenarios he has prepared and laid out before us. This is the charm of living with God.

#### *CHAPTER 40*

Verse 1: Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.

In due time, two of the king's officers, the cupbearer and baker are imprisoned. You must not look at this as coincidence. This afternoon, I took the visiting pastors out to eat sashimi. As I prayed over the meal, I prayed a blessing over the person who God prepared for the meal. And as soon as we finished praying, one of our church deacons walked in. He could have gone to any sushi restaurant, as there are so many to choose from, and we weren't even in our own neighborhood, but all the way in Oido. Will that deacon have sighed, "Ugh, what bad luck. Looks like I'm going to spend a fortune today..."? Absolutely not. Rather he will be able to say, "I have something to be blessed for today! It's a blessing to serve just our senior pastor, but today, I am serving many

pastors – I’m going to burst with blessing today!” God is incredible at making preparations. God did these things in order to pour out the blessings he had set up for his life, it is no coincidence. Whenever I go out to eat, even if I am paying, I pray, “God, bless the hands you’ve prepared for today.” Today, I also prayed this prayer, and when I opened my eyes, he walked in.

So these two people have dreams. Who caused them to have these dreams? God does it. You must acknowledge this. People who say, “It happened by chance as I lived my life,” will continue to consider everything in life a coincidence. For me, whatever happens, I say God did it. “In all your ways acknowledge him (Pr 3:6a),” “Commit your work to the LORD (Pr 16:3a),” are things you should clearly do. If everything that happens in life were “a series of accidents as you live each day,” then you cannot realize God’s providence. But there are those who attribute everything to God, no matter what small or insignificant thing happens in their lives. “In all your ways acknowledge him,” is plain common sense. Why? Would the God who has numbered the hairs on your head allow his child to encounter life by chance? Did you live by chance and just happen to get married? No, your marriage is not by accident. We must acknowledge that, in God’s providence, he

has set up all things in order to maximize blessings and allow us to live the glorious lives he chose. That is why we must acknowledge him in all our ways. God sets up the path of life for his children and allows them to go along that path.

As life's scenario arrives at around chapter 40, Joseph realizes, "Ah, finally the normal trajectory is near." Joseph's life is summed up with being sold into slavery by his brothers, being wrongfully accused in Potiphar's house and unjustly being put in prison because of a woman, and now in prison, he meets high level people and interpret their dreams, and finally ends up meeting Pharaoh. That encounter with Pharaoh is not the peak of Joseph's life, but when he meets his brothers, he is able to reach the perfect peace that God had set up. At any given point throughout this process, Joseph sees all that God has set up. From that point, wherever he goes, he not only steers clear of sin, but he never chooses hurt. When you reach my age, you will be able to look back on your life and see God's scenarios. Of course, as soon as I met God, I was able to see the large scope of how he would lead my life. From then on, I told my wife and many other people of that vision. But now, I can actually see it as I look back on my life. God truly kept guiding me along his chosen vision, but within that process, there is not a single

coincidence. Every setup in my life is so amazing. This isn't just on the level of organizing my life, but I am able to see this because I have arrived at the normal trajectory for my life.

The time is nearing when the right trajectory will come and Joseph will be chosen by Pharaoh, but he finds that as his life draws closer to the normal trajectory, it becomes easier to walk with God. As I said, steadfast love increases, authority increases, power increases, wisdom increases, everything is continuously increasing. This will come up later, but he receives increased understanding, and so on. If you are certain that you are God's children, then nothing that happens in life is coincidence. If you realize, "This is not God's best scenario for my life's trajectory," then you should naturally give it up. "This happened because of hurt," "This was the power of my rebelliousness and defiance. That is why I met this kind of person." If you are with a person whom God did not choose for you, you must repent and entrust that person to God. The trajectory must be readjusted. The lives that children of God live are not reckless. There must be continued modifications in our lives. Just as I always say, "You must review your day with God on a daily basis," and for those who have gotten in the habit of doing so, they are able to look upon their life trajectory at any point in

time and be able to say, “My life has gone according to God’s leading,” or, “I’ve come to the wrong place,” from which you can adjust. This is what living with God is about. It is because we live this way that we can call God the living God. If you say, “I’ve been living such a hectic life and came this far,” then you are not living with God. It is not about, “I will try my best to do it,” or, “I will look at it this way,” or, “I will make it happen by trying hard,” but if God is with me, the Holy Spirit will naturally guide me. He will make me see and hear, “My wounds caused that.” Then you adjust with God by quickly repenting and being healed, and if there is hatred in my heart, then modifying the trajectory of that heart.

We can see God driving Joseph’s life in this way. Joseph is not the one doing it. God had set up his life in this way. Joseph simply accepted it in faith, and he lived out his life by fearing God and receiving his love. Why do we call this grace? When you realize that you didn’t really do anything in your life, this is grace. Looking back, I didn’t know back then, but it turns out that as I went according to God’s will, it was all prepared by him. If, by my age, you are not able to confess, “Ah, it was truly all by the grace of God,” that is a problem. If you are still fighting, still correcting your trajectory, and still groveling – if that is the case, then you should probably do something, but

that is not it. From that perspective, when you reach the end of your life, your character, personality, and lifestyle should all be touched by the Spirit of God.

Verse 23: Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Just as Joseph interpreted the dream of the cupbearer, he was reinstated to his position. So the cupbearer could have remembered Joseph and thought, “I should get Joseph released from prison.” But God forbids that thought. Why? The time had not yet come. Ultimately, what God wanted was not recognition from the cupbearer, but his scenario was for him to be recognized by Pharaoh himself. Imagine if Joseph kicked the prison door yelling, “Hey! Call the cupbearer. He was reinstated after I interpreted his dream. Why is he leaving me in here?” You cause a riot when, due to your wounds, the spirits of unbelief, worldliness, immorality, familiar spirits, etc., these spirits enter and keep you from being able to accept God’s providence. Then, his life would have ended with being acknowledged by the cupbearer. However, Joseph had no hint of disobedience, hostility, or struggling.

The patience to wait for God to work in his time is not a difficulty for Joseph. He trusts in God. “There must be some intentional providence of God regarding the cupbearer,” and he waits. You must be able to see your life. There are some people like Joseph whose best scenario from God is to be recognized by the Prime Minister, but you are trying to play with the neighborhood officer. I am like this. The best scenario for me is to be with the great saints in Apgujeong-dong (one of the ritziest parts of Seoul in Gangnam), but I am stuck with a bunch of hillbillies in the village of Jeongwang. No, I’m kidding – that is not the case. Actually, I did have that mind in the past. When I planted my first church, I intended to plant in Apgujeong-dong. “I can’t possibly be Shihwa-style. God sent me to the wrong place. I want to go to Gangnam-style.” And even though I struggled, I was not able to leave this neighborhood. If I had gone to that area, I probably would have been chased out by now.

Your eyes to be able to see your entire life must be opened through this message today. “What is keeping me from going down the path that God has set for me? Is it wounds? Is it unbelief?” You must check as you listen to the word.

You can see in chapter 40 that Joseph is not one to be

making deals with the cupbearer. It is not because he is so great, or that he knows everything through prophecy. Joseph accepted all of God's settings by faith. If it were me, I would have made a fuss, kicking the prison doors, and I probably would have called for the cupbearer. However, Joseph accepts all of his circumstances without a struggle. He is taking all of the shortest, direct paths that God has set for him. So at the age of 30, he has already become Pharaoh's favorite prime minister. I thought it was very slow, but it's actually fast. I met the Lord at the late age of 29. And as I went along the path that God set for me, I went with the thought, "God, I'm too late." But at 42 years old, just 13 years after meeting the Lord, I became the head of Zoe Ministry. Because God led me on the most direct path, and gave me shortcuts, although I thought I was behind, that was not the case. God established Zoe Ministry through me at the age of 42. Of course, there are things you know and things you do not know, and there were many unbearably difficult times. But that was all God's providence.



## CHAPTER 41

Verse 1: After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile

Pharaoh has a dream, but who is the one who gave him the dream? Do we even have to say it? And in the interpretation of the dream, let's say the strongest shaman in Egypt interprets it. Then will that interpretation be correct or incorrect? Even if he spoke correctly, God would make him wrong. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream. Is that interpretation correct? No, I think of it like this. Rather than Joseph's interpretation being correct, God works according to his interpretation. That is the authority of the child of God. It is because Joseph spoke that his interpretation comes true; if someone else had spoken, it would not have worked out. It's true. It is important who is speaking, not what is being spoken. This is a tremendous statement. Even if the same words were spoken, it is not important what is said, but rather who is saying it. It is this important to live life that is received from God. Those who live without receiving from God cannot live this way. It works because he lives his life by what God gives him. God acknowledges it because Joseph is

the one who said it. Making Pharaoh dream, as well as giving the interpretation of the dream, and making the cupbearer remember Joseph, were all the work of God. “In all your ways acknowledge him.” You must acknowledge that God did it. There is nothing that happens by chance.

Verse 16: Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

“I’m not the one doing it,” is not a simple answer. A person like this is able to exalt God at all times, no matter what the circumstance or conditions. This moves beyond fear into a state of worship. He turns everything to God. If you continued to receive all of God’s scenarios as they come, more and more gets added as you go. It is not an easy thing to attribute everything to God and exalt God alone in front of a foreign king who worships idols. Whether Joseph is before Pharaoh, or whether or not his brothers come, his entire life exalts God alone. As Paul states, “as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.” His spiritual level had come that far. The level of this young man who is only 30 years

old has reached the point where exalting God has become personified in his life. The important thing is that his own strength had disappeared. As he passed through all of these times of suffering, his own strength had completely drained out.

And he is given the wisdom to be able to interpret that dream. When he was young, he said, “I had this dream,” and it was over. He did not have the wisdom to be able to interpret that dream. But as Joseph endured much suffering, the wisdom to interpret dreams came. As he went along God’s scenarios, one thing was added to the next. And now, even wisdom comes.

*[PSALM 105]*

Verse 17: He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

This is talking about Joseph being sold by his brothers.

Verse 18: His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron;

This is not only being taken into slavery, but up to a certain point, his whole life was continually bound. This is the path

of suffering that God set up for him, not one that Joseph chose.

The reason why is given in verse 19:

Verse 19: Until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.

**Until what he had said came to pass:** God guides our lives, but living according to God's scenarios is nothing else: The answer to God's word for your life settings are prepared, but he allows suffering until that time is reached. It is not suffering due to sin, but suffering that comes when going along the path that God has set is the commonality for all of God's children. Everyone goes down that path. There is no way to avoid that path. I am on that path, as are the people who are here, and same for our forerunners of faith. But if your self-power is strong, and you have wounds, and you lack faith, then you will not be able to bear this path that God has set. Then you will go off course. There are quite a number of you like this. You are unable to go because your wounds are unbearable, and you go out of orbit. Therefore, how great is your loss when you have wounds? Whatever power is

within you keeps you from being able to take the trajectory that God has set for you. As I lead you, I can't say this applies to every one of you, but for some of you, I deliberately do not allow you to continue on a path if you are not able to stay on course. It is because it is so obvious to my eyes. In fact, you cannot go on without resolving these things.

**The next words are important:** the word of the Lord tested him. This is not referring to a certain strength being increased through repeated actions. This is similar to the New Testament word "Dokimazo". Dokimazo refers to putting iron in a furnace to make it 100% pure. Looking at Joseph's story, it says that God made him prosperous, but this means that he had become a pure soul that had no problems in being led by God. That is the single most important issue and point right now in leading us through our scenarios.

Another interpretation is that iron was placed inside Joseph's back. How strong was God going to make him? At that time, Joseph had to take over the rule of the world. This person named Joseph shows himself to be the most suitable leader in the time of trouble. Seven years of plenty and seven years of famine – right now is such a season. Just as I had said several years ago that the seven years of plenty were ending, it has ended, and we have now entered the seven years of

famine. It is now the time for our church to live with what we had continued to plant and gather in faith up to this point. We have been continuously gathering through all this time. We continued to give to God, spending 60-70 billion won for missions, and we have gathered for God in this way. Now we must live with that over the next seven years of famine. It is the same for all of you. Our church is a church that has God's vision. You are all leaders, and as dreamers like Joseph, as those who have God's vision, you are now going on this path. We are not those who grow in our own strength.

What is the clear evidence that your life is going according to God's scenario like Joseph? You continue to grow in sanctification. Just as Paul said that weakness is strength, becoming a person who is unable to live without relying on God is clear proof that you are going according to God's scenario. You do not become strong on your own. Human victory types, you must repent of these things. Human victory types are pictures of Babylon, not of God's people.

*[Back to Genesis.]*

If you are not able to accept in faith all of the events that develop in life, you will consider it as coincidence, or react

negatively to these situations. So in this state, you would not be able to endure the silence that Joseph experienced after he interpreted the dream and the cupbearer was reinstated. Forcibly asserting self-righteousness is a very bad power that we possess. This kind of person will feel resentment. Was there any heart of resentment in Joseph? No, not at all. Joseph didn't show even a hint of resentment. But was Joseph in the right or wrong? His rightness must be recognized before God, not by people. So he was not resentful. There are probably people here who, when even the slightest thing happens, are so consumed by resentment. They feel such injustice that they want to grab the person by the collar and say, "Let's just see who's right, you or me! Let's fight to the end." There are quite a number of you like this. Joseph did not feel resentment, because all he needed was God's acknowledgement. For those who feel closeness with resentment, they cannot help but be friends with despair also. "Despair, I welcome you. You are my friend. Good to see you." Those who feel resentment are all too close with despair.

*Verse 37: This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.*

Think about it. This is not a simple story. A mere slave

interprets a dream, and then the Pharaoh and his servants all agree to Joseph becoming the prime minister. This is crazy. Who did it? God moved all of their hearts. Think about it. Let's say I died tomorrow. And let's say one of our deacons becomes the senior pastor. But then the entire congregation applauds and welcomes him. Can this be possible? They would all be crazy. But who causes them to be crazy? God does. Why? Because that is God's person. We say things like, "He didn't get it because he's not qualified." "That person lacks this, so he wouldn't work." But it's not about those things, God has not acknowledged that person. But no matter what anyone says, if God has acknowledged him, everyone will go crazy. A mere slave became the most powerful person under Pharaoh, but Pharaoh and his servants say nothing other than, "Welcome." This is crazy. This is success. Again, it's not what is being said, but who is saying it that is important. If you live this way, then you will be able to see life's scenarios. It becomes clear how we should live.

Verse 38: And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?"

Because God is working, he shows them for what purpose



they should use Joseph. It is not Joseph's personal skills, but by the inspiration of God, Gentiles exalt God with their own lips. This is not a special person named Joseph, but this is what it looks like to walk with God and be successful. If you are a child of God, God's only goal for your life is success. You must believe that the blessing of success is coming upon you. Success!

### *CHAPTER 43*

Chapter 43 is not the story of Joseph, but Benjamin is about to be taken away as well. Joseph formed a strategy to bring his brothers back. This is not because he has wounds. So he writes a strategy for them to bring Benjamin.

Verse 14, is Jacob's confession.

*Verse 14: May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."*

Jacob's life is entering full-fledged glorification. We know Jacob's life, but he had to have everything he wanted. But

the astonishing thing is that he always got everything taken away. Joseph's life and Jacob's life are clearly visible. Jacob also knew that God had set up his life and even knew the conclusion. But because of his envy, jealousy, etc., he was not able to take the direct path that God had set for him, but he went in circles, and instead of getting everything he wanted, he had everything taken from his life.

In the end, even Benjamin is taken away and he says, "I've lost everything," and lets go of himself. And from this point, Jacob's life enters glorification. He is bound to lose everything that he attained in his own strength – there is no other option than to have it all taken away. But it is only then that he enters glorification. He has to let go of his thoughts, his methods, his possessions – everything. God is such a just God. Everything he got for himself was stripped from him. "God, strip our congregants of everything that was attained through their own strength." This is the path to glorification.

## *CHAPTER 45*

His relationship to his brothers is finally revealed.

Verse 5: And now do not be distressed or angry with

yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me: Joseph never has wounds. He was not healed as his life progressed. So, we've looked at his life, but Joseph never chooses hurt. "How is that possible?" I have already told you the secret. He doesn't choose hurt. There are many aspects to reviewing your life on a daily basis, but so many of you must see how many useless hurts you choose in life on a daily basis. Someone makes a comment, and you choose hurt. Even over insignificant things, you choose hurt, and the vast number of times you choose hurt within each day is such a minefield. Why? It is not because of something that person said, but that you have chosen to be hurt. You choose hurt at anything your wife says. If she says in the morning, "I'm tired today. Make a ramen for yourself," then you get hurt saying, "My wife told me to make my own ramen." Aren't you able to do that? Of course, it might be a problem if she does that every day, but there are people here that have personified choosing hurt all the time.

For God sent me before you to preserve life. After receiving Pharaoh's recognition and becoming prime

minister, he looks back on his life and sees God's providence and all of God's scenarios. This is 'understanding'. He just understands God. Because he walked along God's scenarios despite the continued suffering in his life, wisdom, reverence, and faith are added one by one to Joseph's life, and now finally, understanding is added. His eyes are opened to be able to see his entire life. Joseph is now able to see why his brothers did what they did, so there is no reason to choose darkness or the peculiar in any situation. In other words, it is understanding God's reign. He is able to see how the world operates, why life is this way, why bad crops and famine came, etc. Step by step throughout his life, he walked according to God's scenario, and by 30 years old, he has mastered life. He has mastered the world. And he comes to know, "Ah, that is why God brought famine, and this is why God made me a slave, and through that entire process, God has made me overcome." This is understanding.

## *CHAPTER 50*

Jacob dies. And Joseph's brothers are now afraid.

Verse 18: His brothers also came and fell down before him and

said, “Behold, we are your servants.”

The brothers are in upheaval.

Verse 19: But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?”

As understanding begins to come, one’s own opinions, thoughts, methods, and plans no longer apply in light of God’s dominion and how God is leading the world or life. God is leading all things, and since you can see that God is doing something, you become a person that never intervenes with personal things in that area. Joseph has come this far at the end of his life. But conversely, it is because we have not lived according to God’s scenarios that we apply our own strength in our own belief, and without realizing it we involve our own methods and our own thoughts. And in too many cases, we end up controlling people’s lives, leading people, and commit great wickedness in doing things ourselves. This is especially true in my case as a pastor. God must lead all of you, but I get deluded into thinking that I have to do something for you. I’ve been in ministry for 25 years, and I am now coming to realize, “Ah, there is nothing for me to do

other than to pray.” And finally, mastery begins to come to me as well. “It won’t work if I do it.” “It is not about raising my children in the way I want them to go.” The parents in our church try to raise their children in their own passion, but that is because you only have a couple children and have extra room for that. You need at least six children at the very least to be unable to do anything. These are not simple words.

It is disgraceful to be in this kind of position like Joseph. He could have said, “These guys sold me out. Let’s just see after Father dies.” But there is nothing like that in Joseph. “Am I in the place of God?”

Verse 20: “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

These words are also astounding. “As for you, you meant evil against me...” his brothers had done evil against him. “But God meant it for good,” means that God changed it to good. From Joseph's point of view, we cannot say that it was good. Rather it was a very painful time. But looking at all of God's providence and all the lifestyles that God led him through, all of the things he thought were evil and darkness were no

longer evil or darkness. It is all changed to light. In this way, Joseph becomes a very great man. In your thoughts and in your life, some things are darkness, other things are light, and there are many of you who sort these things according to your own understanding. But for Joseph, because he has mastered God's providence for his life, there is no darkness, and all is light. This is what leads to freedom of the soul. All things in life are turned to light. No matter who looks at it, all would say, "His life is darkness," but within the mastery of God's providence, he can understand it all and there is no darkness, only light. The life of this kind of person becomes shocking. Some people are light but they choose darkness, and some people are darkness but they choose light. It is all faith, the power of faith. It is incredible.

At around my age, you begin to see it. "At that time, that was darkness, pain, hurt, and he was a bad person." But when you look at it from God's providential reign, the moment you realize, "No, it was I who chose darkness," it turns to light. You will no longer make ties with that kind of person. You were struggling because you had no money and experienced difficulty and pain, but when it is changed to light, you come to forget the pain of money. There is greater pain for the person who reacts physically to pain,

even though the pain is the same. But if you react spiritually, not only is it painless, you automatically rise back up. This pastor here has metal in his leg. The metal is still there, but because of faith, he lives a normal life. It is darkness, but he is not choosing darkness. There are many of you who have experienced that kind of healing. That is definitely physical pain and darkness, but you do not choose darkness. When we do healing ministry or deliverance ministry, what is the most important thing in the mind of the person doing the ministry? He must not acknowledge darkness. To the demons you say, "You are defeated. You are done for." At all times and in every way, do not acknowledge darkness. Always move toward light. You are such an amazing life.

Verse 21: So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

This is love.

As Joseph realizes the providence of God's entire rule over his life, he gets to have not only his own future, but the entire measure of the entire world and the kingdom of God.



Verse 25: Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.”

Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you... God is going to visit them. He is seeing prophetically that his brothers will go and become slaves, and that God will work to free them. However, we should not look at this as prophecy. Because he realizes the providence of all of God’s reign, he receives God’s understanding, and he is able to see how the world turns. “God will surely visit you, and when you are freed, you will be able to go to Canaan, where God wants you to go. At that time, carry my bones with you.” Therefore, Moses took his bones with him at the Exodus. And Joseph’s head is still in Shechem to this day.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Life goes this far. I always say, “I am not a prophet. I am just looking at the picture from within God’s entire reign.” Joseph is like that. More than prophecy, Joseph also understood all of God’s providential reign, and was therefore able to see the world. Aren’t you jealous? But God has set it up so that all of his children can live like this. Each individual life will be different, in color and direction, but in conclusion, God has set up all of our lives for glorification. It is not important what you do. Some are pastors, others will be something else – this is not so significant. Whatever that may look like, God has set up his best scenario, and through that scenario this is the last stop for all of us. God has set up fairly for all of his children. Also, what you are capable of, what you possess – none of this is important. You just have to go in faith according to the best scenario that he has set for you, and you need not have the things that hinder you, such as wounds or bonds. Then you will get there. Will you become prime minister like Joseph?

Well, even that is not important. It was because of timing that there was a need for God to make Joseph the prime minister. It is not important if you don't become a pastor like myself. Who cares if you are a layperson? If we simply go step by step according to the scenario God has for us, then we will all be able to enter glorification like Joseph.

This word needs to be loosed. Don't worry if you don't have wounds. But don't the brothers in particular have immense wounds of faith? What am I saying? Even though they have wounds, they tout, "I have no wounds! I believe it." That is a headache. Don't do that. Life is not about objectively looking at light and darkness, but it is a matter of my choosing. In the same situation, will you choose light, or will you choose darkness? That is for you to decide. Yours must become like Joseph's life. No matter how evil you think something is, you have the amazing power to turn it to good, and you need to be able to see the picture of recognizing the scenarios of your life. You just have to believe. Believe! If you are a child of God, he will make you live this way. Lord, your community is entering into glorification!



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