

Joseph - a Successful Man

Gen. 39:2 (NKJV)

Introduction:

- A. Tell Joseph's life story.
- B. Joseph "was a successful man" in several areas of life:

Discussion:

I. Joseph Was Successful at *Providing a Living*.

- A. He was a business success: In Potiphar's house and Pharaoh's house.
 - 1. Was not afraid of work. (cf. I Tim. 5:8; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:6-10).
 - 2. Was honest and upright.
- B. He was successful because Lord was with him. (39:2).
 - 1. Lord promises to provide living for faithful. (Matt. 6:25-33).
 - 2. Lord does not promise "health and wealth" of TV evangelists, but does promise care for us.

II. Joseph Was Successful at *Resisting Temptation*.

- A. Temptations that go with power and authority.
 - 1. Often affects political leadership: Pride, greed, abuse.
 - 2. Often affects business leadership:
 - 3. Often affects religious leadership: Preachers, elders, etc. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:1-5).
- B. Temptations that go with youth. (Potiphar's wife; 39:7-18).
 - 1. Fled fornication. (cf. 1 Cor. 6:12-20).
 - 2. Resisted not for fear of disease, unwanted child, but fear & awe of God.

III. Joseph Was Successful at *Forgiving Wrong*.

- A. His forgiveness of his brothers. (45:1-15).
- B. His disposition made it easier to forgive.
 - 1. Did not react to mistreatment by brothers with bitterness.
 - 2. Did not react to mistreatment in Egypt with bitterness.
 - a. Mistreated by Potiphar.
 - b. Mistreated by chief butler. (40:23)
 - 3. Did good to those who spitefully used him.
- C. Our disposition must be to forgive, if repentance. (Luke 17:1-4).

IV. Joseph Was Successful at *Remembering God*.

- A. Through conditions under which many young people forget.
 - 1. Away from home.
 - 2. When mistreated.
 - 3. When prospering.
 - 4. When offered pleasure.
- B. Through it all he remembered the Lord.
 - 1. Named Children after God. (41:50-52).
 - 2. Gave God glory for his prosperity. (45:9).
 - 3. Kept faith in the promise of God. (50:25; cf. Heb. 11:22).

Conclusion:

- A. Joseph is a lesson in the providence of God.
- B. Joseph is good example for all, especially young people.