

The Joseph Calling

Understanding the role adversity plays in our calling



How Does God Transform Esaus into Josephs?



There must first be a transformation



Who Was Joseph and What Prepared Him For His Calling?

The meaning of the name Joseph: “God will increase. May He Add” and “Increaser.””

God Was The Initiator

*I form the light and create darkness, **I bring prosperity and create disaster**; I, the LORD, do all these things (Isaiah 45:7).*

*The LORD was with Joseph and **he prospered**, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master (Genesis 39:2)*

He called down a famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food; and he sent a man before them—Joseph, sold as a slave. **They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons,** till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true (Psalms 105:16-19).

His “boot camp” took 13 years that required **separation from his former life**, having **his will and ability to control anything taken away**, a breaking of his will, a continued confrontation of his own crisis of belief that God was a loving God and that He was still in control of the events in his life.

Joseph Was A *Type* of Jesus

Jesus

- Operated in the supernatural in the marketplace
- Sinless
- Salvation for mankind
- Suffered for and forgave those he was sent to save

Joseph

- Operated in supernatural – dreams, words of wisdom
- Hardship was not due to sin
- Saved a nation from starvation
- Suffered for and forgave those he was sent to save

Joseph Was A *Type* of Jesus

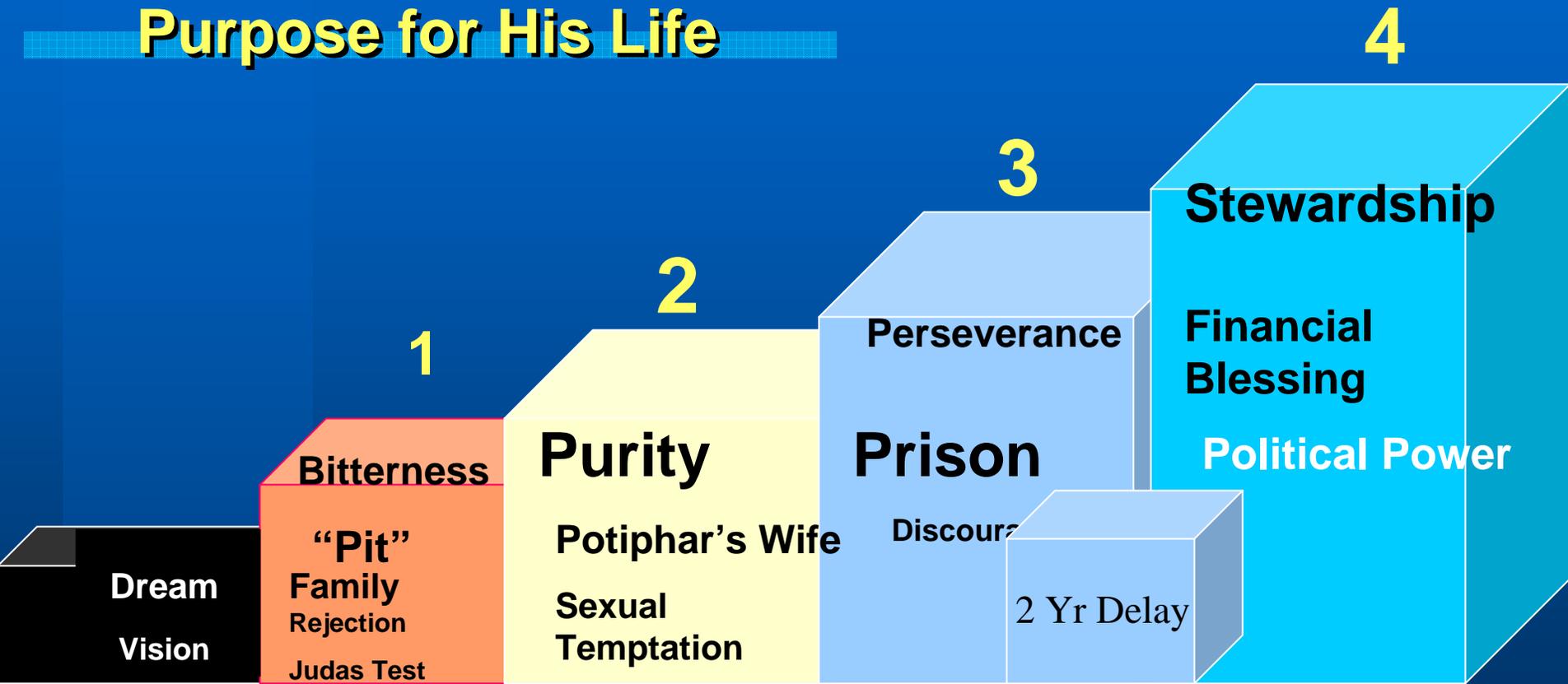
Jesus

- Betrayed by his own people – the Jews – sold for 30 pieces of silver
- Physical & spiritual provider
- Prophetic ministry – foretold things to come
- Operated in the marketplace

Joseph

- Betrayed by his own family – sold for 20 shekels of silver
- Physical & spiritual provider
- Prophetic ministry – foretold things to come
- Operated in the marketplace

Each of Joseph's 4 Tests Moved Him Toward Fulfillment of God's Ultimate Purpose for His Life



“...til the Word of the Lord proved him true.”
(Ps.105:19)

God Will Often Use A Business Problem to Initiate a New Calling in a Person's Life

The Calling of King Saul

1 Samuel 9,10

“Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul, 'Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys.'”

1 Samuel 9:3



Joseph Recruitment Process

Decision

1. Consequence of Faith
2. Judgment of Sin

Promised Land

- Rain From Heaven
- Land of Milk & Honey
- Obedience
- Victory

Egypt



- Marriage Problem
- Business problem
- Unemployed
- Financial
- Illness



Gibeonite Ruse



Nature Change vs Habit Change

Egyptian Values

- Slavery
- "Sweat & Toil"
- Pump Water from Ground
- Disobedience

"In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat."

Ps. 127:2

Death to Self

"Spiritual Bootcamp"

"No Will Of Our Own"

Faith Experiences



Gal 2:20; Rom. 6:4;

Col. 2:11

Every major leader in the Bible went through a similar process = Saul, David, Joseph, Jacob, Apostle Paul.

When God Gives A Vision

- *“The word of the Lord came to Abraham in a vision. God’s method always seems to be vision first and then reality, but in between the vision and the reality there is often a deep valley of humiliation (“and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him” Gen. 15:12).*

Oswald Chambers:

- *“How often has a faithful soul been plunged into a like darkness when after the vision has come the test. Whenever God gives a vision to a saint, He puts the saint in the shadow of His hand, as it were, and the saint’s duty is to be still and listen. When God gives a vision and darkness follows, wait; God will bring you into accord with the vision He has given if you will await His timing...”*



Otherwise, you try to do away with the supernatural in God's undertakings. Never try to help God fulfill His word. There are some things we cannot do, and that is one of them."

– Oswald Chambers



God is Master Over Darkness

A pixelated landscape featuring a bright sun or moon in the sky, casting light on a mountain range. The scene is rendered in a low-resolution, dithered style. The sun/moon is positioned in the upper center, with rays of light extending downwards. The mountains are dark and jagged, with some highlights where the light hits. The overall color palette is dominated by dark blues, greys, and oranges from the sun/moon.

**“I form the light and create darkness,
I bring prosperity and create disaster;
I, the LORD, do all these things.” Isa 45:7**

Treasures of Darkness

“I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.” -- Isa 45:3



“I would ‘kill’ you myself if I could.” –
Mentor.

God gave me a vision for men and
women in the workplace, but first he
had to remove the “Esau” from my life.

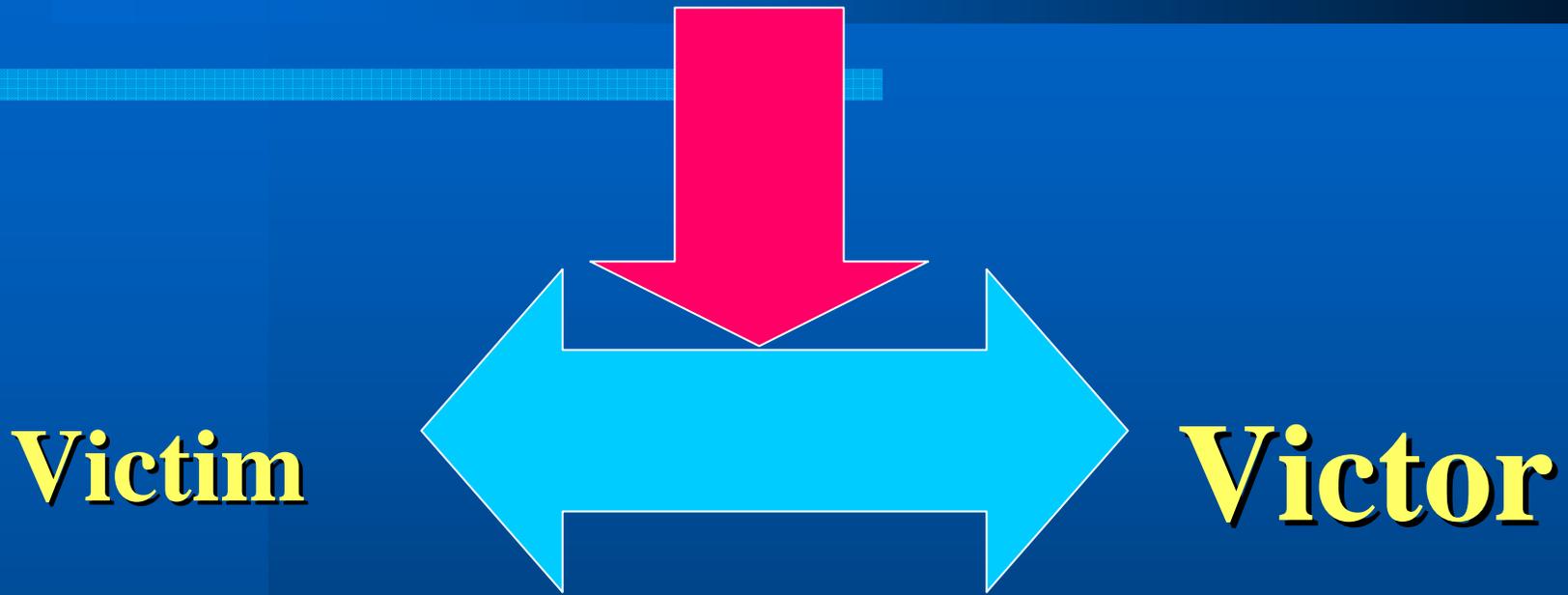


Whenever God brings adversity into our lives, we have a choice to make. We either become a victim to our circumstance, or we become a victor in our circumstance for the glory of God.

“..what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.”

Paul , Phil. 1:12

Crisis



“..what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.” Phil. 1:12

Circumcision: Death, then Life

- *“If we refuse to make our natural life obedient to the Son of God in us, the Son of God will be put to death in us. If we fight against desolation, we will kill the life of God in us; yield to it, and God’s fulfillment will amaze us. It is the periods of desolation that the sickly pietists talk about ‘What I am suffering!’ They are in the initial stages and have not begun to realize God’s purpose.*

Our Strength vs God's Strength

- *“If we imagine we have any strength apart from God, we will have to break the neck of our strength over some obstacle before we are willing to rely upon Him. Our own strength is the backbone of the natural life, but not the life of God. There will be a wobble in our walk of faith until the vision of faith and the reality are one and the same.”*
 - Oswald Chambers

Why Does God Call Us Out of Egypt?

God called the people out of Egypt in order for them to worship Him.

Coming out of the Esau (self-life) can often mean a severe time of withdrawal from the old system.

- Coming out of the Esau life can often mean a severe time of withdrawal from the old system.
- God calls us to enter to the Promised Land to move in a new paradigm of understanding between provision and obedience.

We are all in one of three stages:

- 1) Still living in Egypt as an Esau.**
- 2) In the process of our personal “pit experience.”**
- 3) Living in the Promised Land.**

Not everyone needs to go through the severe “pit experience”, however, each of us must be circumcised in heart.



Coming out of Egypt required passing through the desert.

Hebrew word for desert is midbaar, from the word dahbaar, meaning “to speak”.

“Therefore I am now going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her.” - Hosea 2:14

Circumcision

Even Moses had to be circumcised. “At a lodging place on the way, the Lord met Moses and was about to kill him. But Zipporah took a flint knife, cut off her son’s foreskin and touched Moses’ feet with it. ‘Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me,’ she said. So the Lord let him alone”

(Exodus 4:24-26).

“In Him you were also circumcised in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but the circumcision done by Christ”

(Colossians 2:11).

The process of circumcision can be dependent on our level of cooperation with God. *“If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes (Psalm 82:13,14).*

A Paradigm Shift in Our Thinking

“So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.”

Josh 24:13

Barbados

NY Venture Capitalist

**You must not seek to deliver
yourself. You must simply obey.
Provision and destiny follows
obedience.**

- Every servant of God who had great anointing also had great adversity -- Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Paul, David, Peter. Many business leaders who made a difference in the Kingdom also experienced great adversity.

RG LeTourneau

- Shortly after conversion he lost his job due to a fire.
- Estranged relationship with father-in-law
- Went through 1906 earthquake
- Nearly died from influenza
- Broken neck in stock car crash
- Went bankrupt
- Survived gasoline fire in his repair shop
- First born son died at age four

J.C. Penney

- In 1910 his first wife died.
- In 1923 his second wife died giving birth to his son.
- In 1929 the stock market crashed and he lost \$40 million.
- By 1932, he had to sell out to satisfy creditors. This left Penney virtually broke. Crushed in spirit from his loss, his health suddenly failing, Penney wound up in a Battle Creek, Michigan sanatorium

JC Penney

- One morning he heard the distant singing of employees who had gathered to start the day with God: *Be not dismayed, whete'er betide, God will take care of you...* Penney followed the music to its source and slipped into a back row. He left a short time later a changed man, his health and spirit renewed, and ready to start the long climb back at age fifty-six. By 1951 there was a J.C. Penney store in every state, and for the first time sales surpassed \$1 billion a year.

Abraham Lincoln



- Failed in business at 31.
- Defeated for legislature at 33.
- Again failed at business at 33.
- Elected to legislature at 34.
- Sweetheart died at 35.
- Nervous breakdown at 43.
- Defeated for Congress at 46.
- Defeated for Congress at 48.

Elected President of the United States at 51.

What Are The Key Objectives The “Joseph” Process Is To Achieve In Our Lives?

Gene Getz, author of *Joseph*, gives us these insights:

1) To Learn Lessons and Avoid the Pitfall of Pride

- Pain produces humility, the major requirement to be used by God.

“Praise God for the hammer, the file, and the furnace. The hammer molds us, the file shapes us, and the fire tempers us.”

– Samuel Rutherford

C.S. Lewis

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is a megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”



-- C.S. Lewis, *The Problem with Pain*



It's a lack of maturity that
forces God to shout.



Jesus' Training

“In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering..”

Heb 2:10-12

Jesus' Training

“Although he was a son, **he learned obedience** from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

Heb 5:9-10



“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until he has hurt him deeply.”

– A.W. Tozer



Key Objectives of the Process

To Be Trustworthy of a Large Vision

Few men have been given the kind of power and authority that Joseph had at such an early age. It often leads to arrogance, irresponsible behavior, and a downfall.

“Not every man can carry a full cup. Sudden elevation frequently leads to pride and a fall. The most exacting test of all to survive is prosperity.” —

— Oswald Chambers

- Joseph was given privilege, power, and prestige. It takes a special person not to succumb to such temptation.

- 1) Geographical Control
- 2) Financial Authority
- 3) Social Prestige
- 4) Royal Privileges
- 5) Political Power
- 6) Religious Position

What Is Biblical Success?

- Biblical success = Fulfilling the purposes for which God made me.





“Beware of any Christian leader
who does not walk with a limp.”

— Bob Mumford



After Death Comes Resurrection



The Resurrection In Business

**Now if we died with Christ, we believe that
we will also live with him - Romans 6:8**



Skills & Abilities

Motives - Why?

Faith Experiences

Bedrock - Jesus

• Cyprus

Omar

Col.3:23

Lk 14:28-30

1 Chron 32:31; Jn 6:26; 1 Chron. 28:9;

Phil.1:18

"Depth & Width"

No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 3:10-11

“Our Lord said that the only men He can use in His enterprises are those in whom He had done everything (see Luke 14:26-27, 33); otherwise we serve our own ends all the time. Many begin well, but go off on some doctrine; all their energy is spent furthering a cause rather than Jesus Christ.”

The direction of duty lies not in doing things for God, but in doing what God tells us to do, and God's order comes to us in the haphazard moments. We do not even make the haphazard moments; God is the arranger of the haphazard. The direction of duty is loyalty to God in our present circumstances."

-- Oswald Chambers,

The Bottom Line

- “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”- John 12:24-26
- Death of a vision – Abraham’s suicidal faith
 - Ministry example

You Are Not Your Own

- **“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” 1 Cor 6:19-20**

Questions

- Prayer