

Genesis 39:1-4

¹ And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

a) This was arranged by the Lord. Since they sold him into slavery, God intervened and lined him up to be sold to a man who would later promote and take care of him.

i) I have heard some say that God was being the way the brothers treated Joseph because He was taking him up. Nothing can be further from the truth.

- ☐ This interpretation makes God and Satan of the same team. God forbid!

- ☐ God does not use the tools of Satan to accomplish His will, purpose, and plan.

- ☐ God does not use evil or bad things to get us to certain places in our journey.

ii) Rather What God did is He came in and redeemed the situation for Joseph, but He did not cause it nor allow it. His brother did this to Him, not God.

- ☐ Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

b) Be careful how you treat people today because tomorrow they might be your boss (Pastor Greg and Mr. Paul Milligan). One day they could be in a position of greater influence. Joseph was mistreated by his brothers but the end says it all. He who laughs last laughs best!

² And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

a) The Lord was with Joseph even as a slave.

i) Many times we think that when we are going through certain hard times God is not with us. Not true!

□ God was with Joseph even as he was sold twice.
The Lord was with him in the house of a stranger
(Ungodly boss).

b) For the reason that God was with him, He was prosperous.

i) Joseph was like the Ark of the Covenant. Whenever he did and went, that place prospered.

c) Joseph was a slave, probably naked. He had nothing yet God called him prosperous. True Prosperity is not material things. It will eventually produce things but it is not things. What do you consider prosperous? You might have to redefine it.

d) God was the reason for Joseph's prosperity, NOT man. Notice that this is past tense "he WAS a prosperous man."

i) Romans 4:17

ii) He was prosperous way before anything natural or physical could prove. Hallelujah!

³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

a) Master saw that the Lord was with Joseph.

b) How did the master know anything to do with the Lord (The God of Joseph)? Joseph lived a godly life but also shared about His God. His master knew of Joseph's God through Joseph and that He was the reason all that Joseph did prosper.

i) It was visible. It was something tangible. (When God is with someone, we can tell, we can see it.)

□ Even Potiphar a non-believer was able to recognize it. This is saying that even unbelievers can see when we are anointed and blessed by God.

ii) Joseph was an anointed man and this anointing upon his life promoted him.

iii) Joseph cooperated with God's anointing on him for Potiphar to be able to see it. Potiphar looked at his bank account and saw that God was with Joseph because of his increase.

iv) It's important who we hire. We need to hire "Josephs" not necessarily to put food on people's tables.

c) Because God was with him, everything he touched turned into gold.

i) Deuteronomy 28:8, 22.

d) It is not enough to just lay around because God is with us.

i) We have to labor faithfully.

ii) We have been blessed spiritually but we have to get that from the spiritual realm to the physical.

□ What's the point of having all this money in the bank you don't withdraw?

□ We need to get to work because we are blessed.

iii) It was not by revelation or word of knowledge that Potiphar saw the faithfulness of Joseph. He looked at the physical things, at the results of Joseph and His bank account.

e) We have to be faithful before God and before Man.

i) Vertical and horizontal faithfulness.

ii) Who would promote someone working for them solely based on who they are in the Spirit?

⁴ And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served (attend) him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. (Brackets mine)

a) "Found grace"

b) This is talking about gaining it. Joseph worked hard and diligently and gained it.

i) We can't earn favor from others but we can attract it and we can draw it to ourselves by the way we conduct and carry ourselves.

- i) "So Joseph pleased Potiphar and found favor in his sight and he served him as his personal servant." AMP Version
- ii) Proverbs 11:27 and 12:2 (Procureth, attracted, found & Obtains)
- iii) God's grace towards us is not earned but the grace of people in this world has to be gained in most cases. Big difference! Vertical vs Horizontal!
- Potiphar did not just give him grace, Joseph earned.
 - Just like favor from men, trust has to be earned.
- c) True grace serves. It works. It labors (1 Corinthians 15:10). Joseph was not a lazy slob with a bad attitude.
- d) Grace and work preceded Promotion! Grace+ Work= Promotion. (He did not look at his spirit to promote him.)
- e) Who wants a lazy person to be overseer over anything? No even people in the world.