

Jesus is Better Than Egypt 1-08-2017

Gen 41:50-52

Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him.⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." ⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

Joseph's challenges are not all behind him. Some of his greatest challenges ahead.

- The test of success can be more difficult than affliction because worldliness subtly draws our hearts away from satisfaction in Jesus alone. *Gen 41:41-45*

He had no choice but to receive an Egyptian name & wife but he did have a choice in naming his sons.

- The boys Hebrew name was a proclamation of Joseph's faith in Yahweh & his trust in God's faithfulness, goodness & promises. *41:50-51*

Manasseh= God has made me forget all my trouble & all my father's household.

- All past pain/sorrow is not erased from his memory but he is acknowledging God's grace, not wealth, promotion, or popularity, helped him to move beyond his painful past.

- He had no bitterness, resentment, or hatred toward those who hurt him.

God is bigger than your past or person who hurt you, disappointed, rejected, or abused you.

- Don't be controlled/defined by past difficulties but by hope in Jesus.
 - Focus on loving God & His promises, not on past bad memories.

God can turn painful wounds into stingless scars, & many times brings blessing out of pain/trouble. *Gen 41:52*

- Ephraim = God has made me fruitful in land of my affliction.
 - God turned Joseph's & many others' sorrow into joy.

- Whether your fired or have a broken relationship (dad)

God turned Joseph's sorrow into joy & blessed him greatly. Last 7 yrs had best food, entertainment, wealth....yet seems Joe resisted worldliness

- Calls Egypt the land of his affliction
- Understood: no matter how good things got in this world it's still Egypt!
 - He chose to live for & identify with the covenant people of his father's family. *Heb 11:9-10, 24-26, 1 Jn 2:15-17,*
 - Jesus is better, more satisfying than anything in Egypt.
 - Diamond placed on black velvet

Worldliness one of greatest challenges Christians face today.

- Worldliness: loving values & pursuits of world that stand opposed to God.
 - Legitimate desires become idols we pursue.
- As we embrace the world's outlook, live by it's values, or pursue it's goals our affections for Christ are dulled.

- Do not deny God, or just ignore/forget Him or use Him only for selfish ends.
 - Don't live a self-centered life but rather live a God-centered life.
- Worldliness is especially dangerous for Christians during good times because we have things to pursue our joy in rather than in Christ. Prov 30:8-9, 1 Tim 6:17-19

We can't simply try to avoid worldliness because it's a heart issue that displays itself in our actions, words.

- By God's grace, we can push out worldly desires by delighting in Jesus, pursuing godliness & hoping in promised future. Gal 6:14, 1 Cor 10:31, 1 Tim 6:8-10
 - Allow the cross to define who you are & how you live. Not the world.
 - Jesus is better than anything world can offer
- Be in world but not of it. Enjoy the world, engage it, & evangelize it.
 - Pursue God's purposes. Live for glory of God not fleshly desires.