

## 09/07/03 – “THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

Genesis 37 – The Story of Joseph

Joseph’s brothers hated him, were jealous of Jacob’s favoritism, gave a bad report about his brothers to their father

Joseph was a “narc”, a “tattletale”, he had dreams of his brothers bowing down & serving him

His brothers’ **jealousy** led to hatred & a desire to kill Joseph – Sold him as a slave – Betrayed at deepest level

**Jealousy** becomes deadly if not confessed & dealt with

Something in our sinful nature says we deserve more than we are getting – We want “food that **is not** our portion”

### **Think About It**

When we’re jealous we are not grateful & when we are not grateful we are not happy.

When we are not happy we are sad & when we are sad we tend to get depressed

When we’re depressed we go after things that will make us happy & most of those things are not good for us

If you want to be **successful**, all you need is for the **Lord to be with you**– Potiphar recognized Joseph’s **success** was from God

Joseph was a victim of violent crime & hatred yet **God was with him** & he became a **successful** man

Potiphar’s wife tried to seduce him but Joseph’s response was, “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

A kidnapped man, an alien, no friends, no family, a slave & yet was faithful to God

His reward for faithfulness was to be falsely accused with no “Due Process” & was put in jail for two full years... **Would you be bitter?**

### **What is Success?**

The basis for all **success** is not **self-fulfillment** – straining to be **self-fulfilled** is futile & empty

**Success** is not having everything go as planned - Whose plans have worked out perfectly? Plans are conceived in the heart of man but the

**Lord directs your steps** It is a walk of faith & trust regardless of our plans & preparations

### **The Basis of Success is not:**

1. Achievement (though we measure it)
2. Fame (though we acknowledge it)
3. Discovery (though we benefit from it)
4. Education (though we learn from it)

All four of these are not bad in & of themselves, but not a basis for true **success**

What makes a person **successful**?... The Lord was with Joseph so he became a **successful** man – **That is the secret of success**

**Success** is in the eye of the beholder, and the key is to realize ultimate **success** is defined by God alone

Man looks at outward appearance, God looks at the heart... He weighs our motives

While in jail Joseph interprets the dreams of the baker & cupbearer but is still overlooked & forgotten – **Would you be resentful?**

After interpreting Pharaoh’s dream & giving the plan of action, Pharaoh makes Joseph Prime Minister of Egypt

His upwardly mobile track was not Harvard or Yale, but simply **the Lord was with him**

Gen. 50:15-19 – Years later, after Jacob’s death, the brothers were afraid of Joseph holding a grudge against them & lied to protect themselves

Joseph told them, “You meant it for evil but God meant it for good to bring about this present result”

Joseph wept... they still didn’t get it! Joseph was in **God’s place** for **God’s purpose** to bring about **God’s provision**

**Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers them out of all** – Psalm 34:15

*“And He called for a famine upon the land; He broke the whole staff of bread. He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons; until the time that his word came to pass; **the word of the Lord tested him**. The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples, and set him free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler over all his possessions...” Psalm 105:16-21*