

March 14, 2021

CELEBRATING EASTER IN A PANDEMIC WORLD

“PREPARATION: INTEGRITY, ATTITUDE AND FORTITUDE”

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HEBREWS 11:1-10 (ESV)

INSIGHT: World changers are not focused on themselves but on God’s promises to work through them.

INSIGHT: Joseph rose up time and again from gut-wrenching setbacks for three reasons: Integrity, Attitude and Fortitude.

I. INTEGRITY BLESSES AND OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY (Genesis 39:1-6 NLT).

OBSERVATION: God was with Joseph...but the question is “Why?” Why did God honor Joseph? What did Potiphar see in Joseph that had him put Joseph over all he owned?

INSIGHT: Genesis 39:4, 6 (NLT), “...Potiphar didn’t worry about a thing.” Potiphar trusted Joseph... Potiphar found Joseph to be a man of integrity.

DEFINITION: Integrity is who you are when no one’s looking.

QUESTION: How do you cultivate integrity? **ANSWER:** By realizing there’s never a time when no one’s looking... There’s always someone looking!

TRUTH: Authentic integrity has a heavenly sense of accountability—the reality that you’re never alone.

TRUTH: You and I are living our lives in full view before a holy God.

INSIGHT: The Bible teaches that integrity brings long-term returns that bless our lives to the end of our earthly race.

II. ATTITUDE DETERMINES DISTANCE IN LIFE.

QUESTIONS THAT REFLECT ATTITUDE:

1. Child of God, have you been a Joseph?
2. Have you been on the whole difficult to be around?
3. Have you been snarky about masks, or an encourager in these difficult days?
4. Have you been, on the whole, short with family and people?
5. Argumentative and sharing several pieces of your mind, rather than being humbly quiet, realizing God is using these days to humble everyone to seek Him?

6. Have you been a whiner, turned inward, and focused on yourself and forgot others and your ministry?
7. Have you trusted God that these days served His purpose for your life and you were determined to find out what He wanted?

INSIGHT: Instead of slavery bringing Joseph down, he used it to rise up. Instead of prison bringing him down, he used it to rise up.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THESE LAST 12 MONTHS:

1. Have you wrung your hands with worry?
2. Have you clenched your fists in resentment and anger?
3. Have you thrown your hands up in the air in helplessness?
4. Have you buried your face in your hands in despair?

INSIGHT: God would have had you the last twelve months open your hands before Him invoking His blessings, because you have His vision for your life surging in your soul.

III. A WORLD-CHANGER VISION FORTIFIES YOUR LIFE (Genesis 37:5-11).

INSIGHT: Remember integrity brings heaven's advancement and reward.

INSIGHT: After two years of being forgotten, Joseph was walking as intimately, as dependently with God, with as much faith and trust as he had two years earlier.

TRUTH: A positive ATTITUDE leads to powerful FORTITUDE.

DEFINITION: Fortitude is the strength to bear misfortune and pain, calmly and patiently.

INVITATION: Joseph knew (that's faith) he would get out of prison; he just didn't know when (that's the discipline of obedience).

CHALLENGE: Never lose hope in the end of the story... God has a plan.