



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 17 Issue 323

Dec. 21, 2011

Prayer

Lord, thank You for speaking to me today. Forgive me for the times I've acted like I was better than other people. I am sorry for that behavior, and I don't ever want to do it again. I ask You to convict me when I start to act this way and to show me how to quickly change my behavior. I really want to be an example that will make people want to know Jesus, so help me to change any part of my behavior that does not give a proper impression of Your holy character, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture

Genesis 39:1-23 (AMP)

1 AND JOSEPH was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain and chief executioner of the [royal] guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. 2 But the Lord was with Joseph, and he [though a slave] was a successful and prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all that he did to flourish and succeed in his hand. 4 So Joseph pleased [Potiphar] and found favor in his sight, and he served him. And [his master] made him supervisor over his house and he put all that he had in his charge. 5 From the time that he made him supervisor in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the Lord's blessing was on all that he had in the house and in the field. 6 And [Potiphar] left all that he had in Joseph's charge and paid no attention to anything he had except the food he ate. Now Joseph was an attractive person and fine-looking. 7 Then after a time his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph, and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, See here, with me in the house my master has concern about nothing; he has put all that he has in my care. 9 He is not greater in this house than I am; nor has he kept anything from me except you, for you are his wife. How then can I do this great evil and sin against God? 10 She spoke to Joseph day after day, but he did not listen to her, to lie with her or to be with her. 11 Then it happened about this time that Joseph went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the men of the house were indoors. 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me! But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out [of the house]. 13 And when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled away, 14 She called to the men of her household and said to them, Behold, he [your master] has brought in a Hebrew to us to mock and insult us; he came in where I was to lie with me, and I screamed at the top of my voice. 15 And when he heard me screaming and crying, he left his garment with me and fled and got out of the house. 16 And she laid up his garment by her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him the same story, saying, The Hebrew servant whom you brought among us came to me to mock and insult me. 18 And when I screamed and cried, he left his garment with me and fled out [of the house]. 19 And when [Joseph's] master heard the words of his wife, saying to him, This is the way your servant treated me, his wrath was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him and put him in the prison, a place where the state prisoners were confined; so he was there in the prison. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy and loving-kindness and gave him favor in the sight of the warden of the prison. 22 And the warden of the prison committed to Joseph's care all the prisoners who were in the prison; and whatsoever was done there, he was in charge of it. 23 The prison warden paid no attention to anything that was in [Joseph's] charge, for the Lord was with him and made whatever he did to prosper.

Worship Music

[I'll Be Home For Christmas-Rascal Flatts](#)

[Jingle Bell Rock-Rascal Flatts](#)

[Silent Night-Brad Paisley](#)

[Hark The Angels Sing-Carrie Underwood](#)

[What Child Is This-Carrie Underwood](#)

[First Noel-C.Underwood](#)

Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

Genesis 39. Joseph Imprisoned

Joseph was of unblemished character, unusually handsome, with an exceptional gift for leadership and an ability to make the best of every unpleasant situation. He was born in Haran, 75 years after the death of Abraham, 30 years before the death of Isaac (when his father was about 90), and eight years before they returned to Canaan. At 17 he was sold into Egypt and spent 13 years in Potiphar's house and in prison. At age 30 he became ruler of Egypt. He died at age 110.

Joseph gained the attention of Pharaoh by interpreting his dreams as an agent of God. Joseph made it clear that interpretations belong to God (40:8). Joseph's interpretation was that God was going to bring to Egypt seven years of great abundance followed by seven years of famine. Through the dream, God gave Pharaoh, who did not know God, a warning and provided a plan of provision that would support the people through this time. Pharaoh recognized God's favor on Joseph and put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 125)

Joseph Sent To Prison: V 6 "Well-favored" means handsome. Joseph was a beautiful person inside and out. V 9 Joseph recognized that all sin is against God and is in rebellion to His law's. V 20 Joseph was put into the prison where the pharaoh's prisoners were kept.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; page 18)

Joseph had been unjustly accused and imprisoned, but the Lord was with him and showed him mercy and grace. In Genesis 39:20-23, we see that God gave Joseph favor in the eyes of the prison warden, who basically put him in charge of running the prison. Even in the dismal circumstances of incarceration, the Lord caused Joseph to prosper.

God's favor is also available to us, His children. But like many other good things in life, just because something is available to us does not mean that we will ever partake of it. The Lord offers us many things that we never enjoy because we do not activate our faith to receive what He has provided.

Favor is actually a part of grace. In the English New Testament, the word grace and the word favor are both translated from the same Greek word *charis*. So the grace of God is the favor of God. And the favor of God is the grace of God—that which causes things to happen in our lives through the channel of our faith. It is the power of God doing something for us that we do not earn or deserve. For example, if you ask someone, "Can you do me a favor?" you are asking that person to do something for you that you have not earned or paid for. You are depending on that individual's goodness to manifest in the form of a blessing, even though there is no natural reason for that person to extend it to you.

God wants to give you favor, just as He did Joseph. But in order to receive that favor, you must follow Joseph's example and believe God for it. Joseph maintained a good attitude in a bad situation, and his "faith attitude" led to God's favor. Expect God's favor and keep your attitude of faith in every situation you face. The Everyday Life Bible.

What Is Your Attitude Toward People You Consider To Be Lower Than Yourself?**Romans 12:16**

I'll never forget the time Denise and I were sitting in a restaurant with a well-known businessman, and this man embarrassed us so badly that we decided we would never go to dinner with him again. My wife and I had been regularly visiting this particular restaurant because we had met a waitress there whom the Lord had really put on our hearts. We didn't frequent that restaurant because we liked the food; we went there because we wanted to see this young lady come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

This businessman had contacted us and asked to visit with us. So we decided to take him to dinner at this restaurant where we had been sharing the message of Jesus with this waitress and with many of the other people who worked there.

All prospects for a nice dinner with our guest were soon shattered, however, because the man began to speak to the waiters and waitresses as if they were dogs! He kept brusquely ordering them to do this and that for him; meanwhile, the waitress—our friend whom we were trying to win to Jesus—looked over at us in shock! No one in that restaurant had ever received such horrible treatment from Denise or me.

As the evening wore on, the situation grew even worse. Our guest began to verbally abuse the waiters and waitresses. He told me, "I hope you don't mind how I talk to the servers, but they are here to serve me, and I intend to be served well."

With that, the man again started to rudely bark out more orders to the restaurant staff. Then he started poking fun at their culture and laughing at them for being Russians. He flashed his Rolex watch and bragged to the servers about his luxury automobile and his massive residence back home. He did everything but say, "I'm better, smarter, and richer than any of you—and I don't want you to ever forget it."

Then this businessman asked the servers if they went to church anywhere. How I wished he had kept the Lord out of the conversation, because he was being such a poor example of Jesus Christ! As dinner was served by fretful restaurant workers, Denise and I tried to turn the conversation to spiritual things. We endeavored to tell our guest about what God was doing in our lives and in our ministry, but it was obvious that he only wanted to talk about things that he thought would impress us.

In reality, however, this man was consumed with himself, and we were completely unimpressed with him. He was rude and crude and a very poor example of a Christian businessman. I excused myself to go to the restroom, but my real purpose in leaving the table was to get an opportunity to go directly to the kitchen and personally apologize for the offensive treatment the entire staff was enduring that night. I pushed open the double doors and walked into the kitchen as if I were a part of the staff; then I asked all the waiters and waitresses to come hear what I had to tell them. Once they were gathered around me, I apologized profusely for what was happening at our table. They looked at me despondently and said, "Wow, that man is horrible. We are so thankful that you came back here to talk to us. We know that you and your wife are not like that man."

It simply breaks my heart when I see Christians like this businessman who think too highly of themselves. People like this "speak down" to others they perceive to be lower than they are. This prideful attitude should never be a part of a committed Christian's behavior. The apostle Paul told us, "... Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate...."

The word "mind" is from the Greek word *phroneo*. It means to think, to consider, or to ponder. It carries the idea of intense reflection. Furthermore, the Greek uses a negative, which makes this verse a strong prohibition. This means it could be better translated, "... Stop fixating on high things...." Paul is commanding us not to preoccupy ourselves with or be consumed by "high things." The words "high things" are from the Greek words *ta hupsela*. In this verse, they refer to the opinions and behavior patterns that accompany a person who has an attitude of superiority.

The apostle Paul tells us that instead of having this shameful attitude of superiority, we need to learn how to "... condescend to men of low estate...." The word "condescend" is the Greek word *sunapago*. This is a strange word to be used in this verse, for it is a compound of the words *sun*—which means together with; the word *apo*—which means away; and the word *ago*—which means to be led. A number of scholars say this word conveys the message that those who think too highly of themselves need to move away from (*apo*) such exalted thinking of themselves and be led (*ago*) to join or to associate with (*sun*) men of low estate. I believe that this is exactly what Paul had in mind when he chose to use the word *sunapago*. But what does the Bible mean when it speaks of men of "low estate"? The Greek word for "low estate" is actually the word *tapeinos*, which is the Greek word that means to be humble, modest, simple, and unpretentious. In other words, the word *tapeinos* describes common, ordinary, everyday, normal people. It does not mean poor. There are many proud and arrogant poor people, just as there are many humble wealthy people. The word *tapeinos* ("low estate" or "humble") doesn't refer to a person's financial status; rather, it refers to his attitude toward life, toward himself, and toward others. Regardless of his station in life, he has never allowed himself to think of himself as better than others.

Although there are several possible interpretations of this verse, this is the one I like the most: "... Stop fixating on things that make you think too highly of yourself and that contribute to an attitude of superiority. You need to leave that snooty thinking behind and come back down to earth so you can learn how to associate with common, ordinary, everyday, normal people...."

I don't know if you have ever struggled with an attitude of superiority, but if you have, isn't it time for you to leave behind that way of thinking once and for all? You are not any better than other people. You came into the world the same way everyone else did, and you will leave exactly as everyone else leaves. You were purchased and washed with the same blood of Jesus that is available to every other soul on planet earth. Even if you have more education, more money, and a higher status in society than most people, that doesn't make you better. In fact, these privileges make you more responsible, for God expects you to come down to a level where you can use your gifts, talents, and money to be a greater blessing to people!

Especially during this holiday season of the year when so many people are struggling to make ends meet, why don't you think of ways that you can minister to people in your life whom you normally wouldn't reach out to? Think of what a difference you can make in someone else's life by simply reaching out to bless him or her in some special way. Don't let yourself get away with thinking you're too busy or too high and mighty to do this, because you're not. Don't forget—someone once did this for you; now it is your time to do it for someone else.

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Have you ever encountered a person like the one I described at the beginning of today's Sparkling Gem? How did that person's attitude of superiority affect you and others? Have you ever been guilty of having such an attitude? Do you have this attitude in any area of your life right now? If the answer is yes, in what area of your life do you think of yourself as being better than other people? Now that you know this attitude is not acceptable with the Lord, what are you going to do to change your attitude and actions? What steps can you take to start changing the way you relate to people whom you have previously treated as being "less" than you?

You came into the world the same way everyone else did, and you will leave exactly as everyone else leaves
Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 66-67)