

WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND

"Living with Integrity"

Genesis 47:1-26

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Proverbs 14:34**

a) "**Righteousness**" - means to live by God's standards.

b) "Righteousness exalts a nation" When? Now!!

2. A nation that follows God's principles will benefit a society even if it's leaders are not believers.

3. **BECAUSE OF JOSEPH'S INTEGRITY**... Egypt was saved from the destruction of the famine.

4. **HERE'S THE POINT** - As believers we must live integrated lives of INTEGRITY.

5. This morning we will see that Joseph possessed an integrated life of integrity that touched every area of his life.

FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF INTEGRITY

I. PURPOSEFUL PLANNING

1. **Genesis 46:31-34**

A. PLANNING FOR THE COUNTRY

1.. Joseph lived an integrated life of integrity.

a) His life was NOT fragmented into separate compartments.

1) Like the Christian Book Store owner.

b) Joseph lived a whole life of integrity.

2. **Acts 10:36**

a) "**Jesus is Lord of all**"

3. Joseph was Prime Minister second only to Pharaoh in all of Egypt.

a) He was Pharaoh's top Government employee.

b) One moment there was abundance in Egypt.

1) The next there was famine.

4. Right now in our country there is some FEAR and PANIC.

B. PLANNING FOR FAMILY

1. Joseph was accountable to Pharaoh and could not presume on his superior.
2. Joseph thought through a plan for his family to lead them to Goshen with full transparency to Pharaoh.
3. Joseph knew how the Egyptians thought and reacted.
 - 1) Joseph knew Pharaoh and the culture and beliefs of the Egyptians.
4. **Genesis 46:33-34**
 - a) ***"For every shepherd is an abomination to the Egyptian"***
5. Joseph used this stigma to his families advantage so that they would be separate from Egypt's false God's.
 - a) Goshen was a place of protection all the way around.
 - 1) Spiritually
 - 2) Physically
6. **Frank Gable**, in his book - **"Excellent Leadership"** say this:
"Excellent leaders have the ability to see things realistically. They are not easily deceived by others, nor do they practice self-deception."

II. LOYAL ACCOUNTABILITY

1. **Genesis 47:1-2, 7, 11**
2. As soon as Joseph had his family settled in one place, he went to Pharaoh and told him his family had arrived in Egypt.
 - a) **Vs 1-2**
 - 1) Goshen was the choicest part of the land of Egypt, located in the fertile Nile Delta as Pharaoh ordered him to do.
3. **Vs 3-4**
4. **Vs 7-9**
5. **Vs 10-12**
6. As an employee Joseph was loyal, accountable, objective, wise and efficient.
7. As a leader, he was wise, efficient, objective and flexible.

III. PERSONAL INTEGRITY

1. Integrity shows up over and over again in Joseph's life.
 - a) **Integrity is** - an adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.
2. **Vs 13-15**
3. As the years of famine progressed, life that they once enjoyed deteriorated.
4. For everybody in Egypt, survival was at stake.
 - a) The entire nation was in Joseph's hands.
 - b) And Joseph held the keys to all the granaries.
5. Because of Joseph's personal Integrity he knew he had to live with himself.
 - a) More importantly Joseph had to live with God.
6. Everything Joseph did was decently and in order.
7. Why was Joseph like this?
 - a) **Genesis 41:33**
 - 1) "**discerning**" - shrewd insight into a situation and its needs.
 - 2) "**wise**" - to have knowledge and understanding.
8. **Genesis 47:16-17**
9. **Vs 18-26**
10. **VERY IMPORTANT:** It is extremely difficult to live with integrity.

IV. HE WAS INNOVATIVE

1. **Vs 20-26**
2. Joseph had an innovative plan, something that had never been done before.
 - a) Prior to this they had been settled in **ONLY A FEW** well-populated regions.
 - b) Those places represented their homes, their work, their farms, their neighborhoods.
 - c) They traded it all for food.
3. But Joseph had a plan!! Wow...he was creative.