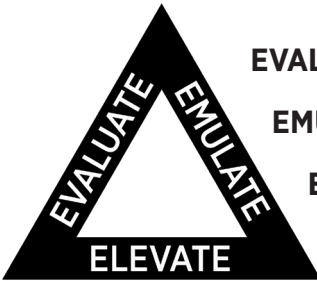


7 PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Part 1 | April 7, 2024

3 GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

- > Experts. *Dialed in on all 7 Principles. You need to teach, coach, and help others.*
- > Learners. *Gaining ground in all 7 Principles. Choosing to grow and follow and apply.*
- > Strugglers. *Having a hard time gaining traction in all 7 Principles.*



EVALUATE: How are you doing?

EMULATE: Where do you need to change?

ELEVATE: The natural result of evaluation and emulation.

Genesis 41:1-16—*When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile, when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind. The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.*

In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him. Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “Today I am reminded of my shortcomings. Pharaoh was once angry with his servants, and he imprisoned me and the chief baker in the house of the captain of the guard. Each of us had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own. Now a young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he interpreted them for us, giving each man the interpretation of his dream. And things turned out exactly as he interpreted them to us: I was restored to my position, and the other man was impaled.”

So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

THE JOSEPH PRINCIPLES: 7 PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

1. Dependence: Rely on God.

Genesis 41:16—*I cannot do it...but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.*

Genesis 41:25—*...God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.*

Genesis 41:38—*...Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?*

Proverbs 3:5-6—*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Psalm 46:1-3,7,10-11—*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ...The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. "...Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

2 Corinthians 1:9—*...But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God...*

2. Accounting: Know the facts.

Genesis 41:25-32—*Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. The reasons the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God and God will do it soon."*

Proverbs 27:24-25 (LB)—*Riches can disappear fast...so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks...*

Proverbs 23:23 (LB)—*Get the facts at any price...*

3. Saving: Prepare for the future.

Genesis 41:33-36—*“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”*

Proverbs 21:20 (LB)—*The wise man saves for the future...*

Proverbs 13:11—*...but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*

Proverbs 6:6-8—*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.*

4. Contentment: Be wise with debt.

Genesis 41:53-57—*The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph and do what he tells you.” When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere.*

Proverbs 22:7 (NLT)—*...the borrower is servant to the lender.*

Romans 13:8—*Let no debt remain outstanding...*

Proverbs 21:17 (GNT)—*Indulging in luxuries, wine, and rich food will never make you wealthy.*

Hebrews 13:5—*...be content with what you have...*

Philippians 4:11-12—*...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, either well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

1 Timothy 6:6—*Godliness with contentment is great gain.*

...TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK...

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All verses quoted in New International Version unless otherwise noted.

Rewatch today's message online at bcachurch.com/messages.

STUDY GUIDE: 4/7/24

Begin your group with prayer. Have one or two people share a testimony from their week. Keep it positive and reflect on the good things God has done.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Take a little time to read the Joseph story in Genesis 41 together. What's going on here? What stands out to you?
2. Mine this story for the "7 Principles to Live By" that Rob is talking about in his series on Maximizing Your Money. What do you see here?
3. What do the following scriptures teach about depending and relying on God? Genesis 41:16,25,28,38; Proverbs 3:5,6; Psalm 46:1-3,7,10-11; 2 Corinthians 1:9.
4. Read Genesis 41:25-32 and discuss in conjunction with Proverbs 27:23-24 and Proverbs 23:23.
5. Genesis 41:33-37 is powerful story on the importance of priority and preparation. What does Joseph teach us about the discipline of saving? Read and discuss Proverbs 21:20; Proverbs 13:11; Proverbs 6:8.