

The Shaping of a Man

“When Success Comes

March 29, 2006

Genesis 41:1-40

SUMMARY:

Only after we pass tests in the pit of pride, the plateaus of faithful service, and the prison of injustice, and we demonstrate proof of God's ability to CHANGE our character, are we ready to receive God's gift that CHANGES our lives. Yet, even though we have experienced God's power to CHANGE us, do we think it is possible for human beings to become different? What do we believe about CHANGE?

Remember God will often use the desert of quiet faithful service or the prison on injustice to permanently transform our self-confidence into **Christ confidence**. It is only when control is out of our own hands and we are thrust blindly into God's arms that He is free to CHANGE us.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: What do you think Jesus meant in John 20:23 when he said, “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”?

Discussion: What does the story of Joseph have to say about the possibility of human beings changing?

Is it clear to you that the Bible speaks with utter realism coupled with powerful hope about the possibility of people changing?

In this world of cynicism, do you really believe that people can change?

Have you seen genuine change occur in a person's life?

APPLICATION:

Allowing God to change your heart is not a complicated process. It doesn't become a part of your life because you follow religious rituals. Allowing God to CHANGE your heart comes down to one simple decision. When your desires are pulling at you to respond in self-interest and put yourself ahead of God or others, will you resist or give in? When Jesus said we must take up your cross and follow Him, He wasn't referring to outward religious formalities. He wants to know if you deny what you want, and choose instead to allow God to CHANGE you into what He wants you to be. In the next two days take time to think, meditate, and pray. Ask God to reveal what it is that may stand between you and Him

ON YOUR OWN...

1 Samuel 10:6 Mark 1:15 James 1:2-4 Titus 2:11-14 Matthew 18:3