

Pastor Ron Case
7/15/12

“Enduring the Crucible” (3)

*“So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest.
But God said to him, ‘You are my Son; today I have become your Father.’”
(Hebrews 5:5 NIV)*

From the Big ‘I’ to the Little ‘i’

Genesis 37:6-9 – (6) “He said to them, ‘Hear this dream that I have dreamed: (7) Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.’ (8) His brothers said to him, ‘Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?’ So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words. (9) Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, ‘Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

Genesis 37:23-24, 28 – (23) “So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. (24) And they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. (28) Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.”

Genesis 39:20 – “And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.”

Genesis 41:14-16 – (14) “Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. (15) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.’ (16) Joseph answered Pharaoh, ‘It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

Key Point: God is Tuning His People from ‘I major’ to ‘i minor’
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Tried & True Life Preserver

Genesis 45:1-8 – (1) “Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, ‘Make everyone go out from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. (2) And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. (3) And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. (4) So Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come near to me, please.’ And they came near. And he said, ‘I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. (5) And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. (6) For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. (7) And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. (8) So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”

Considerations:

(1) We have to be Broken to be a Blessing

Psalms 105:16-19 – (16) “When (*God*) summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, (17) he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. (18) His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; (19) until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.”

(2) Humility Yields Graciousness

Genesis 50:15-21 – (15) “When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.’ (16) So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this command before he died, (17) Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you. And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (18) His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, ‘Behold, we are your servants.’ (19) But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? (20) As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (21) So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)