

In God We Trust II

Genesis 41:28-32

It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt. ³⁰ After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land. ³¹ The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous. ³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

Genesis 41:33-36

³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. ³⁵ Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. ³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine.”

Seasons Change

The dream that Joseph interprets for Pharaoh is about 7 years of prosperity and then 7 years of famine. It is important to recognize the financial principle born of this dream. We must always plan, exercise fiscal discipline, and save - as seasons of famine are a part of all of our lives. This text reminds us that money is ever moving, rising, and falling in our lives – maybe that's why it's called currency. Most of us have experienced the sting of shifting financial tides.

Don't Measure Income, Measure Outcomes

Joseph's interpretation and advice to Pharaoh is to prepare for the worst while things are good. We should aggressively plan to save and invest the resources that God sends on a daily basis. Wealth doesn't begin with increased income, but financial discipline. Rather than focusing only on increasing our income, we must develop the ability to say 'no' to all of the things that more money can afford us

Luke 15:11-14

¹¹ Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

Luke 15:15-19

¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'

The High Cost of Low Living

While the parable of the prodigal son is designed to show us the abounding love of our heavenly father, it also provides a great economic lesson about frivolous spending. An inheritance that took his father years to amass was gone in short order, along with this young man's dignity and esteem. Often times, we fail to count the emotional and psychological costs of financial stress on our hearts, and minds, and relationships. Living for the moment almost always costs' us our future.

A Portrait of Poor Stewardship

The prodigal son's working arrangement was particularly humiliating.

- Demeaning
- Debilitating
- Devaluing

Life Choices

Deuteronomy 30:19 - I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live,

Our financial decisions bring in a real sense either blessing or cursing into our lives in the near and long terms. As Christians, we should seek to avoid the spiritual stronghold of debt, and live with ownership, saving, investing, retirement and giving in mind.

