

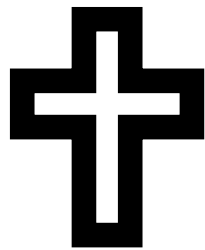
Twelve Lessons

on

Joseph

Compiled and Written by

Robert “Bo” Wagner, Th.D.



Macedonia Baptist College

9722 Hwy 601

Midland, NC 28107

(704) 784-4200

\$6.00

CONTENTS

1. THE FORMING IN YOUTH OF WHAT WOULD BECOME A GODLY AND USABLE ADULT3

2. A DARK START TO A BRIGHT FUTURE6

3. CHARACTER AT ALL COST9

4. FROM PRISON TO PALACE12

5. BOWING AND BINDING16

6. DON'T YOU KNOW?20

7. THE RISE OF JUDAH24

8. FULL CIRCLE28

9. JUST THE SON31

10. A REUNION FOR THE AGES35

11. THE JEW THAT MADE EGYPT A WORLD POWER40

12. OF BONES AND BURIALS44

**No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without
written permission from Macedonia Baptist College and Xaris, Inc.**

The logo for Xaris, featuring the word "XARIS" in a stylized, lowercase font with a decorative flourish above the letters.

THE FORMING IN YOUTH OF WHAT WOULD BECOME A GODLY AND USABLE ADULT

LESSON 1

Text – Genesis 33:1-20

Introduction: Joseph is one of the most complete pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ you will ever see in the Bible.

All through the Old Testament, God was painting pictures of what Jesus was going to be like, and when He got around to Joseph, He painted a really close picture!

1. Joseph was the Father's prized son, just as Jesus is His Father's prized Son.
2. Joseph was clothed in a very special garment, just as Jesus was clothed in a scarlet robe in which to be crucified.
3. Joseph's garment was later dipped in blood, and Jesus will come back in a garment dipped in blood in Revelation 19.
4. Joseph was sold by those closest to him for the price in silver of a common slave. Jesus was also sold by Judas, a man he called friend, for the price in silver of a common slave.
5. Joseph was imprisoned and suffered unjustly, just as Jesus was imprisoned and suffered unjustly.
6. Joseph's sufferings were for the good of the entire world, whom he saved from a famine. Jesus' sufferings were for the good of the entire world, whom He came to save from sin.
7. Joseph came through all of his troubles to end up seated on the right hand of Pharaoh. Jesus came through all of His troubles to end up seated at the right hand of the Father.
8. Joseph was a remarkable type of Christ. He was also an incredible model for Christians to emulate today, especially in his adulthood. But much of what formed Joseph as an adult was from lessons he learned as a youth.

Lesson Goals:

1. To discover the influence of parents on the early years of their children.
2. To study the importance of character.
3. To understand the abilities of God.

Definitions of Important Terms and/or Phrases:

1. Shepherd – A person who takes care of sheep. Figuratively, the Old Testament pictures God as Israel's Shepherd-Leader (Ps 80:1; Ezek 34:14). The New Testament reveals Jesus as the Good Shepherd who gave His life for His sheep. When He said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11), Jesus linked His own divine nature with one of the most ordinary occupations in Israel. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
2. Prudence – Skill, good judgment, and common sense. Both David and Solomon are described as men of prudence and wisdom (1 Sam 16:18; 2 Chron 2:12). The Book of Proverbs has good words for the prudent person (Prov 1:4; 12:16,23; 18:15). (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).
3. Shechem – An ancient fortified city in central Palestine and the first capital of the northern kingdom of Israel (see Map 4, B-3). Its name means "shoulder," probably because the city was built mainly on the slope, or shoulder, of Mount Ebal. Situated where main highways and ancient trade routes converged, Shechem was an important city long before the Israelites occupied Canaan. The city has been destroyed and rebuilt several times through the centuries. Shechem is first mentioned in connection with Abraham's journey into the land of Canaan. When Abraham eventually came to Shechem, the Lord appeared to him and announced that this was the land He would give to Abraham's descendants (Gen 12:6; Sichem, KJV). This fulfilled God's promise to Abraham at the time of his call (Gen 12:1-3). In response, Abraham built his first altar to the Lord in Canaan at Shechem (Gen 12:7). Because of this incident, Shechem is an important place in the religious history of the Hebrew people. Upon his return from Padan Aram, Jacob, a grandson of Abraham, also built an altar to the Lord at Shechem (Gen 33:18-20). This marked Jacob's safe return to the Promised Land from the land of self-imposed exile. According to Jewish tradition, Jacob dug a deep well here (John 4:12). Jacob's Well is one of the few sites visited by Jesus that is identifiable today. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

I. JOSEPH LEARNED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS EARLY, BEFORE THEY GOT TOO BIG TO HANDLE

A. Jacob's Desire

1. After Joseph was born, Jacob wanted to go back to his homeland, but Laban didn't want him to go. Laban saw how good of a shepherd Jacob was, so he hired him to stick around and keep his sheep. He had already been there for fourteen years working for Rachel and Leah, and he stayed six more years

working as a shepherd, with his wages being whichever of the sheep were born a certain color or skin type.

2. During those six years, Jacob got rich off of Laban's sheep, and Laban started getting pretty angry about it. So Jacob decided to run. Without telling a soul, he packed up his family and possessions and took off. Three days later, Laban found out about it, and hit the roof. He chased Jacob down, they had a nasty falling out, and then went their separate ways for good.

B. Jacob's Dilemma

1. In chapter thirty-two, Jacob sent some messengers out to make contact with his brother Esau. If you will remember, the last time these two were in the same place, Jacob had been so dishonest and sneaky towards His brother that Esau determined to kill him. As far as Jacob knew, twenty years later Esau was still holding a grudge. So knowing that Esau would hear of his coming, he sent messengers ahead to talk to Esau and feel him out to see if he was going to be safe or not. When the messengers got back, they said "We met up with Esau. He's coming to see you."
2. Genesis 33:1 – *"And Jacob lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, Esau came, and with him four hundred men."*
 - a. A problem had grown from one to four hundred over the years. This lesson on the early life of Joseph paid dividends later, as Joseph saved up for the years of famine well before those years ever arrived.
 - b. Proverbs 22:3 – *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."*
 - c. Proverbs 27:12 – *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."*

II. JOSEPH LEARNED THAT LIFE WAS TOO SHORT TO HOLD GRUDGES

A. Jacob's Decision – Genesis 33:3-4 – *"And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. 4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept."*

1. It was Esau that ran to meet Jacob, it was Esau that embraced him, it was Esau that kissed Jacob. From his godless uncle Esau, Joseph learned the most godly lesson imaginable. Forgive, and release grudges.
2. Years later, he would demonstrate how well he absorbed that early lesson:
 - a. Genesis 45:14-15 – *"And he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 Moreover he kissed all his brethren, and wept upon them: and after that his brethren talked with him."* This is the most Christ-like of attitudes:

B. Jesus' Discernment

1. John 21:15-17 – *"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep."*
2. Days removed from being denied three times, Jesus took steps to put Peter back into His service!

III. JOSEPH LEARNED THAT GOOD MANNERS GO A LONG WAY

A. Joseph's Discovery – Genesis 33:5-7 – *"And he lifted up his eyes, and saw the women and the children; and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant. 6 Then the handmaidens came near, they and their children, and they bowed themselves. 7 And Leah also with her children came near, and bowed themselves: and after came Joseph near and Rachel, and they bowed themselves."*

B. Joseph's Display – Years later, the manners that little Joseph learned were on full display before Potiphar, and Pharaoh. Those manners helped to elevate him in every situation in which he found himself.

IV. JOSEPH LEARNED TO GET WHAT HE GOT HONESTLY

A. Jacob's Direction

1. Genesis 33:19 – *"And he bought a parcel of a field, where he had spread his tent, at the hand of the children of Hamor, Shechem's father, for an hundred pieces of money."*
2. Considering the consistently conniving character of Jacob, this was remarkable. He bought something honestly rather than conning his way into it! He chose honesty over guile.

B. Joseph's Diligence

1. That lesson served Joseph well later, when he chose honesty over girl:
2. Genesis 39:9 – *“There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”*
3. Learning early to get what we get honestly would solve a great number of our societal problems, such as:
 - a. Adultery
 - b. Theft by government transfer of wealth
 - c. Cheating in school
 - d. Lying on loan forms

V. JOSEPH LEARNED THAT OUR GOD IS THE MIGHTY GOD

A. Joseph's Discipleship – Genesis 33:20 – *“And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.”*

This name means “God, the mighty God of Israel.”

B. Joseph's Demonstration – In a life where everything seemed beyond his control, this lesson carried Joseph through. His entire life was a demonstration of the unshakable confidence that, whether he was in a pit or a prison or the palace, God was the mighty God in control of it all.

CONCLUSION

1. How effective, for good or bad, are the lessons we teach our children early in life?
2. 2 Timothy 3:14 – *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*
3. Timothy was able to be mightily used of God as an adult because of the lessons he learned as a child. Mom, dad, pastor, never forget that every moment you invest in properly teaching a child will influence years of their behavior!