

Monday Morning Rewind – September 15, 2008

Good morning. Got character? On Sabbath we learned that character is what you do when nobody is looking. And it is often learned in the school of hard knocks. Joseph maintained his integrity in the face of temptation and yet ended up in jail. But what Joseph was in his father's house, he was in Potiphar's house; what Joseph was in Potiphar's house, he was in prison. No matter what else changed around him, Joseph's trust in and commitment to God remain unchanged. That's *character*. He continued to do the right thing even at the cost of his freedom, and God continued to bless him with favor even in the prison.

As you rewind to Genesis 39:20-41:43 remember the five rules of favor:

1. Leave your situation better than you found it.
2. Whatever circumstances you find yourself in, serve. Do your best to adopt John Wesley's motto: "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can."
3. Life is hard, but God is good. There is no fairness on planet earth, but even in a pit, in a strange place, in prison, and in unfairness, God is in control, extending favor in all things "for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28).
4. "Keep on keeping on." We don't do the things we do in order to become Christians, we do what we do because we *are* Christians. It's who we are. I can't help it that I look like my dad. And for Christians we shouldn't be able to help it that we look like our heavenly Father. Joseph was a man after God's own heart—favored for a purpose—and he continued making his world a better place and God continued making him a better man!
5. "God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them." EGW

How did Joseph get from the pit to the palace? By being faithful in whatever circumstances he found himself. By trusting in, clinging to, and obeying God at all times and in all places, he maintained God's favor and God's favor caused him to ride upon the high places of the earth.

In times of crisis, God looks for men and women, boys and girls of integrity, diligence, and discernment to intercede and prevent national ruin. Joseph was in the right place at the right time to warn Pharaoh of the coming famine crisis and provide a plan of escape. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have a purpose, too—to bring enlightenment to a confused and unsuspecting world about the coming of Christ and show how to be ready for Him. We are not here just to make a living, raise our families, come to church occasionally, retire and die. We are God's Joseph to the world—a world that is about to experience devastation.

Our favor has a purpose—to save those in harm's way. Favor is not so we can enjoy God's blessing, but so that we can be the means of delivering God's blessing to others. As favored people we are God's delivery system of salvation to the world. Begin delivering today! –Pastor Randy