

Watchman Part 17

(The Watchman Is a Keeper for his Brothers Part A)

“12 Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, 13 and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied. 14 So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem, 15 a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16 He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?" 17 "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.' " So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.” (Genesis 37:12-17)

Joseph was sent by his father Jacob to go and to look for his brothers. He was called to be watchman to look after the wellbeing of his brothers. From the above passage we can conclude the following points:-

1- You are called to look after the wellbeing of your brothers: *“So he said to him, Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me.” (Genesis 37:14a)* Joseph was called to look after the wellbeing of his brothers, the ten of them, and not only them but the wellbeing of the flocks. Joseph was called also to bring a report to his father Jacob. So the watchman has the responsibility to look after the affairs of his brothers and bring a report to those who are responsible on them.

2- You are called to endure travelling: *“Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron. When Joseph arrived at Shechem,” (Genesis 37:14b)* So Joseph here had to travel a considerable distance before he would be able to reach them. So as watchman you may need to travel long distance before you can reach the people that you are sent to look after and examine their lives.

3- You are called to endure traveling from field to field: *“A man found him wandering around in the fields ...” (Genesis 37:15a)* Joseph was moving in different fields in order for him to find and reach his brothers.

4- God will send you people to direct you in your journey: *“15 a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?" 16 He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?” (Genesis 37:15-16)* Joseph was looking and searching for his brothers and he asked the help of the man who found him to ask about his brothers. As watchman certain times God will allow that certain people to come across your lives to help you and give you some details that will help you to achieve what you need to do to complete the ministry that God entrusted to you.

5- Do not give up: *“They have moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.' ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.” (Genesis 37:17)* Joseph did not give up when he heard that they moved to Dothan. As watchman in order for you to achieve your ministry you need to travel further and persevere till you reach the place that God wants you to reach.

6- But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. *19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. 20 "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams." 21 When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. 22 "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the desert, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe--the richly ornamented robe he was wearing-- 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. 25 As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. 26 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. 28 So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. 29 When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. 30 He went back to his brothers and said, "The boy isn't there! Where can I turn now?" 31 Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32 They took the ornamented robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." 33 He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him. 36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.”*

6- Be wise in and discerning in handling the people: *“Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him.” (Genesis 37:20a)* Joseph was sent by his father to look after his brothers, but they were thinking evil of him and mistreated him. They even told lies to hide their crime from the knowledge of their father. As watchman you are called to be wise and discerning of how to handle the people that you are sent for, *“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)*

7- Remain faithful and accept persecution: As watchman be faithful to God and do your ministry faithfully to the Lord. Even the people that you are serving may mistreat you and persecute you, but you need to hold to your integrity and continue to serve the Lord. *“22 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject*

your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets." (Luke 6:22-23) Persecution is not reason for you to back out of the ministry and retreat from being a faithful watchman.

7- Have a big heart and forgive those who hurt you, and understand God's plan of salvation: "And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." (Genesis 45:5) After many years from the above incidents Joseph met with his brothers and they were afraid that he will punish them but Joseph did not harm them or punished them. Joseph understood the plan of God of salvation for the whole of his family. He even comforted his brothers and assured them, "7 **But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.** 8 "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt." (Genesis 45:7-8) Even after the death of his father he assured his brothers that he will not harm them, "15 **When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, " What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"** 16 **So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father."** When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 **His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.** 19 **But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."** And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them." (Genesis 50:15-21) As watchman you need to have big heart and be willing to forgive those who hurt you and harm you so God's plan of salvation shall flow in the life of other people. Ask God to give you a big heart to accommodate and over come all the hurt.

My Dear and Beloved: Joseph was instructed by his father Jacob to go and see and look after the wellbeing of his brothers. And he was faithful and he continued to care and provide for them even after they had hurt him so the plan of God of salvation was fulfilled in the life of His people. Joseph was here a type of Christ. Jesus, though he was the beloved Son of his Father, and hated by a wicked world, yet the Father sent him out of his bosom to visit us in great humility and love. He came from heaven to earth, to seek and save us; yet then malicious plots were laid against him. He came to his own, and his own not only received him not, but consulted against him: *This is the heir, come let us kill him; Crucify him, crucify him.* This he submitted to, in pursuance of his design to redeem and save us. In the same way God is calling you as watchmen to care and to look after the wellbeing of your brethren and the ministry and the people under your care as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that makes things clear to me and give to me more wisdom, understanding and insight to go on and serve you with a loving, caring, mature, responsible and forgiven heart. Lord continue to mold me, renew my mind and transform me with your word. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.*

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"1 To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: 2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; 3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." (1Peter 5:1-4)

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