

THE SECRET OF THE REIGNING LIFE OF JOSEPH

Message Eight

Feeding in the Kingdom of God

Scripture Reading: Gen. 47:14-21; Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Psa. 24:1

I. Although Joseph was the ruler, he suffered until the day his father was brought to him; because of his suffering, he had the riches; it is those who suffer who are able to give others the supply of life:

- A. If we would be able to supply food to others, we must undergo a long period of suffering; Joseph did not have all the grain until he was thirty-seven years of age; at that time he became rich not in power but in food and in the life supply.
- B. Joseph had the supply of life, the supply of food; according to our natural concept, Joseph should have simply given it away, since he had the life supply and the people needed it.
- C. The life supply should not be sold cheaply; if anyone in the church life is willing to give away the life supply in a cheap way, we must question whether the supply he has is genuine:
 - 1. If we want the food, we must pay the price; the greater the price we pay, the greater the supply we will receive.
 - 2. The people who came to Joseph for food paid four kinds of prices: their money, their cattle, their land, and themselves; these four items cover all the prices we need to pay today—Gen. 47:14-21:
 - a. Money signifies what we depend on; money represents convenience:
 - (1) Some are not willing to pay the price for the supply because they are concerned about losing their conveniences.
 - (2) The more conveniences we give up, the more life supply we will have; today's Christians, however, keep their conveniences but have no life supply.
 - b. The second item the people paid for the food supply was their cattle; cattle signify the means of our living.
 - c. After handing over their cattle, they need to hand over their land; the land represents our resources.
 - d. The last item the Lord requires is ourselves, including every aspect of our being; the Lord Jesus will claim every part of you—Rom. 12:1-2.
 - 3. Perhaps we have consecrated ourselves to Him but have never handed ourselves over to Him; today Christ is claiming not only our money, cattle, and land but also ourselves—2 Cor. 5:14-15:
 - a. By making the last payment, the payment of themselves, to Joseph, the people partook of the top portion.
 - b. When we pay the first, second, and third price, we enjoy the first, second, and third portion.
 - c. But when we pay the highest price, we enjoy the best portion.

II. After the people gave everything to Joseph, they no longer cared for their money, cattle, land, or even themselves; they enjoyed only the rich supply:

- A. It is a great blessing to give up everything for the enjoyment of the rich life supply.
- B. Today regarding the spiritual supply, Christ has the riches; the amount of these riches that He is able to supply us depends on what we are willing to pay.

III. Eventually the whole land of Egypt became a land of enjoyment; no longer were there distinctions between high and low and rich and poor; all the

people became enjoyers on the same level because everyone and everything was under the same lord:

- A. This is a picture of the millennium; in the millennium there will be no capitalism or socialism; everyone will be on the same level because everything will be under the Lord's hand.
- B. He will have bought everything, and He will have claimed everything and everyone; truly the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof—Psa. 24:1.