

...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembly together...but encouraging one another.  
 Heb 10:24-25

Share the teaching  
 Guard the sharing

# Male Call

## April 23, 2010—The Jesus Way—Joseph

6:00 – 6:05	Coffee & Donuts—Opening Prayer
6:05 – 7:00	<p>“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”          —Jesus (John 14:6)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ways of Jesus             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Abraham—A faith life</li> <li>b) Jacob—A man who wrestled with God</li> <li>c) Joseph—From slave to ruler</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) Joseph’s First Wilderness             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) “Meanwhile...” (Genesis 37:36)</li> <li>b) What must have Joseph’s experience been like for him?                  Suffering is the swiftest steed that brings us to perfection.                  —Meister Eckhardt</li> </ol> </li> <li>3) Joseph in Potiphar’s Home             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The Lord was with him (39:2)</li> <li>b) Joseph rose through the ranks (39:3-6)                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) What change has overcome Joseph from the time his was sold?</li> <li>ii) How has God molded Joseph to use his abilities in a better way?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>4) Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Potiphar                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) What kind of man was he? (39:1, 6)</li> </ol> </li> <li>b) The wife                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) What did she really want from Joseph? (39:7)</li> </ol> </li> <li>c) Joseph                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Good looking and successful (39:6b)</li> <li>ii) How did he respond to the wife’s advances (39:12)</li> <li>iii) “Hell hath no fury... (39:13-18)</li> <li>iv) What do you think of Joseph’s response to the wife...what were his choices?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>5) Joseph’s Second Wilderness             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Life in Pharaoh’s prison...what must it have been like?</li> <li>b) What was Joseph’s response to his plight? (39:21-23)                  Joseph did not expect God to be the guarantor that goodness would prevail, nor did he</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

see his relationship with God as some kind of bargain in which God would protect him from evil in return for his faithful worship. If this had been the case, he would certainly have succumbed to the “Why did God let this happen to me?” attitude that is characteristic of so many of us whose religious attitude has not matured. But Joseph did not see God as a guarantor of goodness and protection, but as a source of guidance in the midst of whatever circumstances life might bring.<sup>1</sup>

c) What changes have overcome Joseph after this experience in prison?

i) He “sees” others (40:6-7)

(1) Two more years in prison (40:23-41:1)

ii) His egocentrism is gone (41:16)

iii) He is now ready to use the power God will give him as Pharaoh’s Prime Minister wisely

(1) Reconcile with his family

(2) Oversee Pharaoh’s kingdom

Joseph was a king in the dungeon long before he became a ruler of men in Pharaoh’s Egypt. First he ruled himself; then he was ready to govern others.<sup>2</sup>

6) Epilogue

a) First reconciliation (45:1-3-8)

b) Second reconciliation (50:19-20)

Joseph was able to speak as he does because he sees his life in perspective; he perceives the pattern that has been at work throughout his lifetime...now there is no egocentric arrogance in him.

We see the meaning in our life when we see the pattern at work in it, and when we have seen this pattern, we have seen the work of the Self within us. When the guiding pattern of our lives becomes clear, even the darkness and pain can be seen to have its proper place.

Of course, this does not mean that everything always works out for the best. The evil the brothers intended could be used by God for good only because Joseph acquired the right attitude...Evil remains evil until man’s consciousness grows because of it. Then God can use it for good, and the ultimate purposes of God are fulfilled.<sup>3</sup>

7) A Missed Detail

a) Joseph has a short encounter early on—Genesis 37:12-17

i) An important question:

(1) “What are you looking for?” (v 15)

(2) How would you answer it in the context of your life now?

ii) Jesus asks a similar question:

(1) “What do you want me to do for you?” (Matthew 20:29-34)

(2) How do you answer?

b) What are you wrestling with God over and refuse to let go until He gives you a blessing? (Genesis 32:26)

<sup>1</sup> *The Man Who Wrestled With God.* 65.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* 72.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 79, 80.

7:00	Closing Prayer
7:00 – ??	<b>If you would like prayer, please come up front and one or more of us will remain to pray with you.</b>

Further reading:

- *The Bible*
- Au, Walkie and Noreen Cannon Au. (2006). *The Discerning Heart: Exploring the Christian Path*. Paulist Press.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. (1995). *The Cost of Discipleship*. Simon & Schuster.
- Ciardi, John & Williams, Miller. (1975). *How Does a Poem Mean?* Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Ginzberg, Louis. (2003). *Legends of the Jews*. V1 & 2. The Jewish Publication Society.
- Haase, Albert. (2008). *Coming Home to Your True Self: Leaving the Emptiness of False Attractions*. IVP Books.
- Martin, James. (2005). *Become Who You Are*. Hidden Spring.
- Nouwen, Henri. (1981). *The Way of the Heart: Connecting with God Through Prayer, Wisdom, and Silence*. Ballantine Books.
- Ortberg, John. (2010). *The Me I Want To Be*. Zondervan.
- Payne, Leanne. *Restoring the Christian Soul*. 1991. Baker Books.
- Peterson, Eugene H. (2007). *The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways that Jesus is the Way*. Eerdman's Publishing Company.
- Rohr, Richard. (2004). *Adam's Return: the Five Promises of Male Initiation*. The Crossroad Publishing Company.
- \_\_\_\_\_. (2002). *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*. The Crossroad Publishing Company.
- Sanford, John A. 1987). *The Man Who Wrestled With God*. Paulist Press.
- Shelley, Bruce L. (1995). *Church History in Plain Language*. Thomas Nelson Publishers.
- Tozer, A.W. (1986). *Men Who Met God*. Christian Publications.
- Yancey, Phillip. (2002). *Reaching for the Invisible God*. Zondervan.