

The Process Week 3: The SEE SAW Effect

Last week we saw that Joseph's PICTURE got him thrown into a PIT / In **Genesis 37** Joseph told his brothers, "***I had this dream: We were binding sheaves of wheat in the field, all of the sudden, my sheaf stood upright, and your sheaves gathered round it and bowed down to my sheaf.***"

V.8 tells us brothers hated Joseph even more for his dreams and his words.

So when they see Joseph coming out into the fields to check up on them, they say to each other "***Here comes the dreamer. Let's kill him and throw him into one of the pits - Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams***"

When we left Joseph last week, his brothers lifted him out of the pit and sold him to a group of Midianite travelers who happened to be passing by

Genesis 39:1 *Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.*

I want to talk to you today about

TITLE: the SEE / SAW Effect

not playground equipment — the **part** of the **process** where what we **SEE** is **DIFFERENT** from what we **SAW**

What Joseph **SAW** in his dreams **does not** look like what he SEES in his present predicament / In his pictures - He was in a POSITION of authority - He SAW his brothers bowing down

In the PRESENT - Over 200 miles from those brothers, none of them are anywhere to be SEEN / He's in Egypt a place where EVERYTHING is DIFFERENT - he **does not know the people / language / culture**

So what Joseph SEES is VERY Different from what He SAW

And this part of the process effects us differently depending on how we respond to what we SEE / We will have to DECIDE:

Am going to I PRESS IN - or am I going to PULL BACK

Will I PRESS into what I SEE and try to DISCOVER how God wants to USE what I see to make me BETTER? OR will I PULL BACK because I don't LIKE what I SEE, look for someone to BLAME and become BITTER

Joseph could have played the BLAME game here - He didn't ASK to go to EGYPT - He could blame this all on his brothers, sit back and become a very BITTER man

Instead he decides to PRESS IN and DISCOVER how God might be USING what he SEES as part of the PROCESS

When we PRESS in to what we see instead of PULLING back, the 1st thing we discover is that the SEE SAW Effect can often:

1. Help us to **GROW** in our **COMPETENCY**

V.2 says: *The Lord was **with Joseph**, and he **became** a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master **saw** that the **Lord was with him** and that the **Lord caused all that he did to succeed** in his hands.*

Joseph BECAME a successful man, he was not BORN a SUCCESSFUL man

He GREW into a SUCCESSFUL man for 2 REASONS:

1st - because of the **Cultivated Presence of God** in his life, VERSE 2 says “The Lord was WITH Joseph” and V.3 points out that God’s Presence WITH Joseph was EVIDENT “His master SAW that the Lord was with him.” And it was the Lord’s presence with him that caused what he did to succeed

It is IMPOSSIBLE to overstate the importance of the presence of God in our lives.

This is an area we MUST press into - We cannot blame our circumstances or our situations or other people for our walk with God and our awareness of His presence with us - We need to take responsibility for this and PRESS into our relationship with God

2nd – CONSISTENCY

V.3 says his master saw that the Lord caused ALL that he did to succeed in his hands - Not just ALL the BIG things, but all the SMALL things as well - Joseph was consistent / and He was consistently faithful over the LONG HAUL

In fact, the reason his master notices Joseph’s success is probably because Joseph has been consistently faithful for some time / Text does not tell us but Joseph is a servant in Potiphar’s house for around 10 years

It’s very likely that he has already been serving some time when he is NOTICED by his master - Why do I say that? Because the PROCESS of being shaped and formed and transformed often takes TIME before we start to NOTICE

EX. Going to Gym - one time - see little change - consistently over time: NOTICE

Joseph was consistently faithful - he grew competent because he was consistent and his master took notice

V.4 *So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.*

Because Joseph was consistently faithful in small things - Potiphar puts him in charge of ALL THINGS — makes Joseph overseer of his house

V.5-6 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Joseph grew in his competency / He grew in his skills and his abilities as a leader / Before being sent to Egypt we really don't know much about his competencies as a leader SEE GENESIS 37

We also know that the PROCESS does not end at Potiphar's We know that his journey is going to take him to PRISON where he gets promoted to overseeing the entire PRISON - and it's going to take him to PHARAOH's PALACE where he will be promoted to 2nd in command over all of Egypt - He will OVERSEE a food gathering and distribution program that will save the entire nation when a 7-year famine hits

The skills he needed were acquired over time - He learns those skills in the PROCESS / He grows in his competencies by PRESSING into what he SEES, especially when it looks different than what he SAW

So the question we want to be asking God as we're pressing in to what we SEE when it's different than what we SAW is this:

God, is there an area of competency that can be developed while I'm here in this place? Is there something that you want to develop in my NOW that is part of the process of preparing me for my NEXT?

RESTAURANT Example - learned responsibility, how to say "no" & humility

When God begins to USE us in the now - When we begin growing in our competencies -when people begin to notice - when we get promoted like Joseph did - and we are having an impact for the KINGDOM of God - we will face more challenges

And those challenges will often be opportunities to
Build our CHARACTER

V.6 continues: Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

Don't be surprised to find that the more you press in to what you see - the more consistent you are in your relationship with God and the more competent you become in the gifts and talents God has given you - the more attacked you get on a day-to-day basis

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

*V.9 continues: He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me **except you**, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" And as she spoke to Joseph **day after day**, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.*

Joseph was being tempted with was the ONE thing that he COULD NOT HAVE -

Adam & Eve
David

When Nathan confronts David about taking Bathsheba as his wife - He says, "This is what the Lord, God says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?"

David had everything - What did he go after? The one thing he could NOT have - another man's wife - That was his sin

Joseph recognized this temptation for what it was. It was an attack - He says "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Notice she does not let up - V.10 says "she spoke to Joseph day after day." The devil was persistent - WHY?

The devil is trying to keep Joseph from seeing his dream fulfilled -
Jesus comes through line of Judah - Hebrews 7:14 says, "For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah..."
That's why Joseph was tempted day after day after day

V.11-20 But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a

Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house.” Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, “The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.” As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

Character is often built and formed through adversity

My opinion: is that Joseph's character that got him thrown into prison instead of being put to death here - Potiphar's wife has cloak (evidence) - Potiphar does not kill him / instead has him imprisoned - had to be some confidence in Joseph's character

When we PRESS in to what we SEE even when it's different than what we SAW - and believe me it's about to get even more different for Joseph who is now in prison - The EFFECT is: We have opportunity to GROW in our COMPETENCIES

We have opportunities to BUILD our CHARACTER

And whenever we grow in our competency **and** build up our character - we:

INCREASE our CAPACITY for God to use us

We need both

If we have character without competency we'll be good people - but we'll never reach our God-given potential

If we have competency without character we may do great things but our character will eventually cause us to crash

Carey Nieuwhof:

The roadside is littered with the bodies of people who were great at what they did but neglected who they were. Pro sports, the church, Hollywood and Wall Street have witnessed so many incredibly gifted people who fell because of drugs, affairs, theft, embezzlement, inability to get along with co-workers or team mates or personal demons they just couldn't beat. From Lindsay Lohan to Ted Haggard to Terrell Owens to Bernie Madoff, it's pretty clear competence alone isn't enough.

Here's what I increasingly believe. Competency starts something that only character can finish.

This was the PROCESS for Joseph - As he PRESS in to what he saw, he grew in competency, he grew in character, he grew in capacity / He went from being a slave - to overseeing a house, to overseeing a prison, to overseeing a nation

And he sees that what he saw in every situation was not the fault of his brothers - it was the hand of God guiding him

What he sees in every situation was all part of the PROCESS When he finally gets elevated and becomes 2nd in command in Egypt - And his brothers show up to buy grain and bow down to him - Joseph says this:

"I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

So we have a decision to make when what we see is different than what we saw and how we decide determines the effect

We can PRESS IN to what we SEE, the effect will be the GROWTH of our COMPETENCIES, the BUILDING of our CHARACTER and the INCREASE in our CAPACITY for God to do GREAT things through US -

OR we can PULL BACK and the EFFECT will be radically DIFFERENT / Instead of becoming BETTER - we will become BITTER (What I see doesn't look like what I saw and I don't like it—you like to be around those kinds of people? I don't)

Instead of Growing in COMPETENCY we will grow in COMPLACENCY / Instead of our CHARACTER being built up our lists of COMPLAINTS is built up (we'll always be looking for others to blame or fault for our lack of growth)

Instead of INCREASING our CAPACITY to be used by God we find our CAPACITY to be used by God actually DECREASES

Steven Furtick:

Your Dream can actually become a distraction. The world says 'Follow your dream.' Joseph doesn't follow his dream. He follows God and his dream follows him...Don't follow your dreams. What if your dream is just a first draft? Your dream can be a distraction because now you're not following Jesus, you're following your dream and when your dream takes you down an unexpected path you start to complain and freak out and get frustrated.