

窑匠與泥土 - 3

Potter & Clay - 3

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約瑟

Joseph

“耶和華的話試煉他，直等到他所說的應驗了。”

“Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him.”

1. 約瑟的背景 (Joseph's background)
2. 約瑟的考驗与他的反應 (Joseph's test & his response)
3. 我們從約瑟的一生能學到什麼? (What can we learn from Joseph's life)

1. 約瑟的背景 (Joseph's background)

拉結懷孕生子，說：神除去了我的羞恥，就給他起名叫約瑟（就是增添的意思），意思說：願耶和華再增添我一個兒子。
(創30:23-24)

And she conceived and bore a son, and said, “God has taken away my reproach.” So she called his name Joseph, and said, “The LORD shall add to me another son.” (Genesis 30:23-24)

雅各的記略如下。約瑟十七歲與他哥哥們一同牧羊... 約瑟將他哥哥們的惡行報給他們的父親。以色列原來愛約瑟過於愛他的眾子，因為約瑟是他年老生的；他給約瑟做了一件彩衣。約瑟的哥哥們見父親愛約瑟過於愛他們，就恨約瑟，不與他說和睦的話。(創 37:2-4)

This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers...; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him abundance. (Genesis 37:2-4)

後來他又做了一夢，也告訴他的哥哥們說：看哪，我又做了一夢，夢見太陽、月亮，與十一個星向我下拜。約瑟將這夢告訴他父親和他哥哥們，他父親就責備他說：你做的這是甚麼夢！難道我和你母親、你弟兄果然要來俯伏在地，向你下拜麼？他哥哥們都嫉妒他，他父親卻把這話存在心裡。(創 37:9-11)

Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” So he told *it* to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What *is* this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter *in mind*. (Genesis 37:9-11)

2. 約瑟的考驗与他的反應 (Joseph's test & his response)

- A. 在波提乏家中的试探 (The temptation in Potiphar's house)
- B. 在監獄中被遺忘 (Being forgotten in prison)
- C. 在埃及与弟兄们相見 (Seeing his brothers in Egypt)
- D. 在雅各死後與弟兄们的相處 (Dealing with his brothers after Jacob's death)

A. 在波提乏家中的试探 (The temptation in Potiphar's house)

自從主人派約瑟管理家務和他一切所有的，耶和華就因約瑟的緣故賜福與那埃及人的家；.. 波提乏將一切所有的都交在約瑟的手中，.. 這事以後，約瑟主人的妻以目送情給約瑟，說：你與我同寢罷！
(創39:5-7)

So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake;.. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand,.. And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."
(Genesis 39:5-7)

約瑟不從，對他主人的妻說：看哪，一切家務，我主人都不知道；他把所有的都交在我手裡。在這家裡沒有比我大的；並且他沒有留下一樣不交給我，只留下了你，因為你是他的妻子。我怎能作這大惡，得罪神呢？後來他天天和約瑟說，約瑟卻不聽從他，不與他同寢，也不和他在一處。(創39:8-10)

But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with (Genesis 39:8-10)

有一天，約瑟進屋裡去辦事，家中人沒有一個在那屋裡，婦人就拉住他的衣裳，說：你與我同寢罷！約瑟把衣裳丟在婦人手裡，跑到外邊去了。… 婦人把約瑟的衣裳放在自己那裡，等著他主人回家，對他如此如此說：你所帶到我們這裡的那希伯來僕人進來要戲弄我，
(創39:11,12,16,17)

But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside. ... So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; (Genesis 39:11,12,16,17)

我放聲喊起來，他就把衣裳丟在我這裡，跑出去了。約瑟的主人聽見他妻子對他所說的話，說：你的僕人如此如此待我，他就生氣，把約瑟下在監裡，就是王的囚犯被囚的地方。於是約瑟在那裡坐監。(創39:18-20)

So it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.” So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, “Your servant did to me after this manner,” that his anger was aroused. Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. (Genesis 39:18-20)

B. 在監獄中的被遺忘 (Being forgotten in the prison)

司獄就把監裡所有的囚犯都交在約瑟手下；他們在那裡所辦的事都是經他的手。凡在約瑟手下的事，司獄一概不察，因為耶和華與約瑟同在；耶和華使他所做的盡都順利。這事以後，埃及王的酒政和膳長得罪了他們的主—埃及王，法老就惱怒酒政和膳長這二臣，
(創39:22,23;40:1-2)

And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper. It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker. (Genesis 39:22,23;40:1-2)

把他們下在護衛長府內的監裡，就是約瑟被囚的地方。... 到了早晨，約瑟進到他們那裡，見他們有愁悶的樣子。他便問法老的二臣，就是與他同囚在他主人府裡的，說：他們今日為甚麼面帶愁容呢？ (創40:3,6,14,23)

So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined... And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad. So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?" (Genesis 40:3,6,14,23)

他們對他說：我們各人做了一夢，沒有人能解。約瑟說：解夢不是出於神麼？請你們將夢告訴我。.. 但你得好處的時候，求你記念我，施恩與我，在法老面前題說我，救我出這監牢。.. 酒政卻不記念約瑟，竟忘了他。(創40:3,7-8,14,23)

And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.” So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.”... But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house... Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. (Genesis 40:3,7-8,14,23)

C. 在埃及与弟兄们相見 (Seeing his brothers in Egypt)

約瑟在左右站著的人面前情不自禁，吩咐一聲說：人都要離開我出去！約瑟和弟兄相認的時候並沒有一人站在他面前。他就放聲大哭，埃及人和法老家中的人都聽見了。約瑟對他弟兄們說：我是約瑟。我的父親還在麼？他弟兄不能回答，因為在他面前都驚惶。(創45:1-3)

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Make everyone go out from me!” So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; does my father still live?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. (Genesis 45:1-3)

現在，不要因為把我賣到這裡自憂自恨。這是神差我在你們以先來，為要保全生命。這樣看來，差我到這裡來的不是你們，乃是神。他又使我如法老的父，作他全家的主，並埃及全地的宰相。（創45:5,8)

But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. (Genesis 45:5,8)

D. 在雅各死後與弟兄們的相處 (Dealing with his brothers after Jacob's death)

約瑟的哥哥們見父親死了，就說：或者約瑟懷恨我們，照著我們從前待他一切的惡足足的報復我們。他們就打發人去見約瑟，說：你父親未死以先吩咐說：你們要對約瑟這樣說：從前你哥哥們惡待你，求你饒恕他們的過犯和罪惡。如今求你饒恕你父親神之僕人的過犯。他們對約瑟說這話，約瑟就哭了。(創50:15-17)

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him." So they sent messengers to Joseph, saying, "Before your father died he commanded, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph: "I beg you, please forgive the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you."' Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. (Genesis 50:15-17)

他的哥哥們又來俯伏在他面前，說：我們是你的僕人。約瑟對他們說：不要害怕，我豈能代替神呢？從前你們的意思是要害我，但神的意思原是好的，要保全許多人的性命，成就今日的光景。現在你們不要害怕，我必養活你們和你們的婦人孩子。於是約瑟用親愛的話安慰他們。(創50:18-21)

Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.
(Genesis 50:18-21)

3. 我們從約瑟的一生能學到什麼？ (What can we learn from Joseph's life?)

避免偏心
(Avoid favoritism)

要逃避試探
(Flee from temptation)

神的时间永遠是最好的
(God's time is always the best time)

在每一個環境裡看見神，順服神，榮耀神
(Acknowledge Him, submit to Him, and glorify Him in every circumstance)

“耶和華的話試煉他，直等到他所說的應驗了。”

“Until the time that his word came to pass,
The word of the LORD tested him.”