

No Shortcuts Part 3

“The Discipline of Replenishment”

Replenishment: to make full or complete again, as by supplying what is lacking, used up, etc.: to replenish one's stock of food; to supply with fresh fuel; to fill again or anew.

*“Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, ‘Out, all of you!’ So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. ‘I am Joseph!’ he said to his brothers. ‘Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. ‘Please, come closer,’ he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, ‘I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. **It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.**”*

Genesis 45:1-6 (NLT)

Our Community Groups meet throughout the Denver Metro Area. You can find a listing of these groups online at www.fbc.org/smallgroups. For more information or questions, please contact Ceely Ann at 303.424.2121, ext. 92407 or ceelyann.lonergan@fbc.org.

Please feel free to come down to the front for prayer after service.

“...pray for one another...” James 5:16

1. You must choose the self-development challenge

“Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.” Acts 7:9-10 (NIV)

2. There are no shortcuts because:

- What's often important is what you don't know and can't see; hard things are coming
- You will need initiative and obedience; establish personal growth habits

"Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said, 'from now on give us this bread.' Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

John 6:32-35 (NIV)

3. Stay constantly focused on the significance challenge

"Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our fathers could not find food. When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our fathers on their first visit. On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all."

Acts 7:11-15 (NIV)

4. There are no shortcuts so:

- Beware of avoiding the struggle
- Don't stay stuck because you can't get past what you think is unfair
- Getting stuck and staying stuck are not the same thing

"Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character."

Psalms 105:17-19 (NLT)

5. The right response in life should be valued by us more than having the right circumstances

"After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. 'Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,' they said. So they sent this message to Joseph: 'Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: "Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly." So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.' When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. 'Look, we are your slaves!' they said. But Joseph replied, 'Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.' So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them."

Genesis 50:14-21 (NLT)
