

The Rocky Road To Rulership

Big Idea: The rocky road of life on planet earth is on-the-job training for rulership. Joseph's dream of destiny would take him on a nightmarish journey through slavery, seduction, slander, and solitary confinement. The end result, though, was a man humble enough to be exalted.

The world that promotes self-assertion is upside down. The paradox principles of God's Kingdom can turn the world rightside up: die to live, give to receive, serve to lead, submit to authority to have it. That's why God allows the ups and downs of life to test our attitude, to create reliance on Him, to prepare us for co-rulership. If we exalt ourselves, He will humble us; if we humble ourselves, He will exalt us.

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18). Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you (1 Peter 5:5b-6).

1. The Pride Before The Fall

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms. Then Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. Genesis 37:3-5

2. From Son To Slave

Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt. Genesis 37:28

3. From Bondslave to Boss

His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. 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. Genesis 39:3,4

4. From Pro To Con

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. Genesis 39:19,20

5. From Prisoner To Prince

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command." Genesis 41:39,40a

6. The Humility Before The Exaltation

Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50:19-20

Humility requires that we let God be God. It's not our place to judge, to exact revenge, or to harbor unforgiveness. What attitude adjustment do you need to make today?