

Hunger For Righteousness

What do you hunger for? Some people hunger for love, so they look for it in all the wrong places. Others hunger for significance. I want to be someone, and they miss the only one who is significant. Where you put your attention, your effort, illustrates what you crave, what you hunger for. May we hunger and thirst for righteousness, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

Series Memory Verse: God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Matthew 5:6 ESV*

Joseph was a young man who started in privilege.

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe [*or coat of many colors*]. Genesis 37:3

Joe was blessed & highly favored, but…

He hungered for RECOGNITION!

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. Genesis 37:5

Joseph had a dream that they would bow to him!

His brothers betray him and sell him into slavery!
He worked for Potiphar, the Captain of the King's Guard.

The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. [3] Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. Genesis 39:2-3

God blessed Joe as a slave, Joe began to change.

Then Potiphar's wife lies and betrays Joseph.
Potiphar throws Joseph in prison.

So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.
Genesis 39:20

God's blessing was on Joseph again.

But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him His faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. Genesis 39:21

Joseph served, continuing to do the right thing.

The Chief Cupbearer & Chief Baker are in prison;
they have dreams also.

He then restored the chief cupbearer to his former position, so he could again hand Pharaoh his cup. [22] But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream. Genesis 40:21-22

Don't forget me now. I helped you.

Pharaoh's chief cupbearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought. Genesis 40:23

Two full years later…
Pharaoh dreams of the 7 healthy and 7 sick cows.

The cupbearer finally remembers Joseph.

Righteousness Brings Freedom!

Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. Genesis 41:14

People can put you in a place,
but hunger for righteousness will set you free!

He became a ruler in Egypt, and his brother came to him for food.

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. Genesis 50:20

Joseph finally understood that God's righteousness was more important than his suffering!

Righteousness Hungers For God's WILL !

May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

Jesus said, When you pray, pray this way!

He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. **Yet I want your will to be done, not mine**." Matthew 26:39

His humanity was struggling with the plan, but the Father's will was more important to Him!

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from **doing the will of God**, who sent Me, and from finishing His work." John 4:34

Jesus was fully satisfied with the Kingdom.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness… Matthew 6:33a (NKJV)*

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33

My Next Steps:

- ☐ **Ask God What to Give For the Christmas Offering**
- ☐ **Pray for who to invite to Christmas at the House of Praise (12/20-10am & 12/24-6pm)**

Tithes & Offerings

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27

True religion is caring for those in need and not letting the world corrupt you.