

Value the Process

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: 10 X

Text: Genesis 37:5-11

There is no such thing as being **born** 10 X, it is a process. While all of us are born with certain natural giftings, becoming 10 X is a collection of skills that are learned and improved upon. This does not happen overnight, it happens over **time**. In God's economy there is no such thing as an overnight success. It is a process of **development**. All of us have potential but that potential must grow and become practical. Character development, experience, people skills, emotional strength and maturity, discipline, understanding timing, expanding our skills and talents do not develop in a day but over a lifetime.

God gave Joseph a **dream** for his life. Like most people, Joseph had a vision long before he had the ability to make it happen. He had elements of being 10 X, but he had much to learn. Before God could use him, Joseph had to be **prepared**, **purified** and forged into the person and plan God intended for his life.

Three things Every 10 X person needs to prepare them

- 1) Time to **mature** - Joseph labored and lived in obscurity for a season of his life. He was 17 when he was sold into slavery. **Genesis 37:18-28** When he finally stood before Pharaoh, he was thirty years old. He required thirteen years to be prepared. When God brought his dream to pass, he was equipped, humble and able to handle what God had for him.
- 2) Trials to **strengthen** - We become stronger with resistance. Gold is purified and increases in value as it passes **repeatedly** through the fire. **1 Peter 1:7, Psalm 12:6, Psalm 66:10-12, Zechariah 13:9, Isaiah 48:10, Proverbs 17:3** The process of becoming and staying 10 X is all about repetition. Diamonds are created only under extreme pressure. We must persevere under the pressure of development, or we will never endure the pressure of fulfilling and living our dreams. It is the process of trials that prepare us for the demands of the plan. It is what makes the dream easy to live instead of becoming a nightmare. Remember God is the dream giver. His dream is a gift not a curse.
- 3) God to **bless** - Without the Lord we can do nothing of real value. **John 15:5, Genesis 39:22-23** Those who are 10 X must get used to walking in the blessing of God in less-than-optimal circumstances so that they will thrive when the conditions are favorable. Joseph stayed faithful as a slave and as a prisoner. Even when Paul was in captivity, he described himself as a prisoner of the **Lord**. When we serve the Lord, the position and the conditions really are not the issue anymore.

The question all 10 X people are able to answer is- Are we willing to pay the **price** to accomplish what God has for our lives.

Four stages of becoming 10 X

Joseph was a cocky and arrogant as a young boy. He was his father's favorite and received special favor and treatment. **Genesis 37:3-4** As a young man he didn't know what to do with that favor and blessing. As he grew, he learned humility, this taught him to walk in the blessing of God well. He used to brag about his dream, now he helped interpret the dreams of others. He was his father's favorite, but as a prisoner and a slave he had to earn the favor of others. Instead of boasting about his abilities to understand dreams, he waited and trusted God to be recognized and remembered.

Early in his life, Joseph's skill of working with people was weak. He lacked experience, wisdom, tact and humility, which can only be gained with the passing of time.

- Stage 1: I don't know what I don't know
Everyone who becomes 10 X starts out ignorant of a lot of things. Joseph completely missed that his brothers resented and hated him. Joseph didn't know what he was doing. He was doing and saying things without understanding who was for him or against him.
- Stage 2: I know what I don't know
Over the years Joseph experienced betrayal, learned lessons in human nature, relationships and leadership. He learned to manage his emotions, expectations, people, resources and energy. The process molded his character. He developed patience, humility and he recognized God as the source of his blessing.
- Stage 3: I grow and know, and it starts to show
People who show great skill when opportunity presents itself do so only because they have paid the price to prepare for that opportunity. He did not suddenly become good when he stood before Pharaoh. He performed with excellence, discernment and wisdom because he had been paying the price for thirteen years.
- Stage 4: I simply go because of what I know
During the seven years of plenty, Joseph skillfully executed his plan and successfully prepared each city and region for the coming famine. The years of pain and preparation were paying off. Because Joseph grew in character, people skills and ability he was able to gain the trust of people and inspire them to plan ahead.

It takes trials to grow and become 10 X. When responsibilities that God has in store are particularly difficult or challenging or if we are being hardheaded, God will use trials to ensure the maturation process.

The greater the task that God has for you, the greater the trial. **James 5:7-11, 2 Corinthians 4:17** When faced with adversity we will either get better or bitter. Some of us get bitter before God deals with us and then we get better. Joseph had plenty of opportunities to become negative, angry and resentful. Instead of becoming offended he viewed people as instruments in the plans of God. **Genesis 50:20**

The Positive Outcome of Negative Experiences

When we react positively to trials and problems, remarkable things become the result.

- A) We bring glory to God with our lives. Joseph never rebelled, moped around or cursed God. Jobs was 10 X while his own wife was so fed up with the trials, she was ready to cast aside all hope. **Job 2:9-10** Job had the attention of God and Joseph walked in the blessing of God.
- B) We receive opportunities. Without being sold into slavery, Joseph would never have been in the position to speak to Pharaoh. As bad as the experience was, it was the key to every other opportunity that Joseph received. **Psalm 37:23 (AMP & NLT)** Because we are righteous, we can be sure that God is directing our steps and every detail of our lives. Even the negative ones serve a purpose. What sets those who are 10 X apart from everyone else is they have this truth settled in their heart and rest in it.
- C) We develop integrity. Joseph walked and lived in integrity. We can be sure that our integrity will be tested. Only in testing do we discover the depth of our character. People can tell you all they want about what they value. It is only when the pressure is on, that we discover what our values really are. Part of the integrity test is knowing that God rewards integrity even when others are punishing you because you are being accused of not having any. Joseph continued to walk in his integrity even when he was thrown in jail because he was accused of not having any. **Proverbs 11:3**
- D) We grow Spiritually. **Psalm 105:17-19 (NKJV, AMP)** The word that God gave Joseph tested his faith because everything that was opposite of the promise was happening to him. Remember, faith is not just trust it is belief. Everything that God said was testing, refining and challenging Joseph. We live what we believe. This means that Joseph had to really think about his life, his reactions, his words and how he conducted himself. Did he believe God's Word and promise or not? This influenced everything Joseph did with his life.
- E) The negative experiences prepare us in mind and heart for what God has planned. It took longer than a decade, but Joseph learned to value difficult people and awful situations. They were a significant part of divine development. By the time he was made second in command to Pharaoh, he had already proven himself in character and skill. His personal hardships gave him the wisdom and experience that he needed for what God had raised him up for.
- F) We learn that self-promotion can never replace divine promotion. Joseph wanted to promote himself the moment God gave him the dream, which did not go over well with the brothers who hated him. When it came time for his brothers to turn to him for help, they did not even recognize who he was because of the work that God had done in his life. **Genesis 42:5-24** Because Joseph went through the process, his own family didn't recognize him.

We must value the process because that is the key to transformation.