



Mighty in the Word

of the
Lord
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. XXI.03

Take No Thought!

Part II

Genesis 41 is a time of famine, where we read about a time (and there have been many through the years, the centuries) where the Lord God Almighty used Joseph to help people to "Take no thought." Joseph guided them in working for what was to come that they might not fret, worry, be oppressed, by what was to come. There are times we need to seek the Lord in what we are to do, instead of worrying over what may come. The people were taught to plan for the future, for the famine that was to come. The famine was to last seven years. However, they had seven good years in which to lay in store what was needed for the seven years of famine that was to come.

They lived by "Take no thought" in planning ahead instead of sitting idly by, believing they would be provided what they needed, that it would drop out of the sky onto their table at meal time.

Yes, when the children of Israel left Egypt, under the direction of the Lord God Almighty, and had to travel years through the desert; the Lord provided for them in a miraculous way. However, when they had the availability of food that they could store for the future, the Lord guided them to do so.

I believe those who sit idly by, doing nothing, wanting someone to work for them, to provide for them, is not of the Lord. Testing the Lord in this manner is a dangerous place to find oneself.

We are to trust and obey the Lord. We are to work. Proverbs 31.10-31 gives to us what it is to walk in obedience to the Lord. Where. oh where. are the men and women who are living godly lives, working under the leadership of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus? What a business woman! And, I believe her husband also provided for the family - according to the following reading. They worked together for the good of the family and those in need, **truly** in need. Neither of them were idle. What a marriage of trust and working together in the Lord's vineyard! They are not arguing over who is over whom or who can do what. They are one in every aspect of life - in Christ Jesus.

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price [is] far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

There is a saying, "No work? No eat!"

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that **if any would not work, neither should he eat.**

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread (II Th 3.10-12).

This nation has made it easy for anyone and everyone from wherever to get benefits for which they never worked nor do they intend to work.

Oh, yes. We are to help those whom the Lord directs as in the following verse.

And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which [are] within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest (Dt 14.29).

Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.
She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.
She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.
She perceiveth that her merchandise *[is]* good: her candle goeth not out by night.
She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *[are]* clothed with scarlet.

She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *[is]* silk and purple.
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.
She maketh fine linen, and selleth *[it]*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.
Strength and honour *[are]* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.
She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *[is]* the law of kindness.
She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.
Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *[also]*, and he praiseth her.
Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.
Favour *[is]* deceitful, and beauty *[is]* vain: *[but]* a woman *[that]* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

I am reminded of Priscilla and Aquilla in Acts. The Bible says "**THEY** were tentmakers."

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;
And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.
And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers (Acts 18.1-3).

Read Acts 18.24-28 and read where Apollos was speaking boldly in the synagogue about the Lord. But read verse 26 where "Aquila **AND** Priscilla had heard, **THEY** took him unto **[THEM]** and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

I recall in the pastorate where I have seen husbands go to a restaurant together and enjoy sitting there a good part of the day while their wives were at work. Men or women does not matter. The bottom line is we must work together for the Lord in the home, at work - wherever we are!

I cannot say this strongly enough, but we are called to work for the Lord, make a living for the family - working together as one. Husbands **AND** wives, if you know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, come together as **ONE** in Christ Jesus, and if you have children, lead them in the way of righteousness - forgetting what your square building and *leader* has taught you - if in disagreement with the Holy Bible. Get into the Word of God in Christ Jesus with your hearts.

This is a time for the godly to come together as the CHURCH. The body of Christ is all **1)** who have repented of their sins, **2)** given their hearts, their lives, to Jesus Christ for His glory, **3)** are living a life of holiness, of righteousness according to the Holy Bible, the Word of the Lord, daily - moment by moment, and **4)** walking in obedience to the Lord God as one in Christ Jesus.

This is a time of preparation for what is yet to come. Are you ready? Is thy soul right with the Lord God?

The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen *[men]* of Israel.

For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble.

When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.

And they remembered that God *[was]* their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues
For **their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.** (Ps 78.31-37).

Does the above describe us? When we get scared, do we flatter the Lord with our mouth, lying unto Him? Do we believe that the Lord does not know our heart? Read the above passage carefully and search your soul in these days that lie before us.

I am reminded of King Amaziah of whom it was written:

2Ch 25:2 And he did *[that which was]* right in the sight of the LORD, **but not with a perfect heart.**

Yes, I have wondered afar from the beginning of this *Message* - or have I! We cannot prepare for what lies before us in this nation, in this world, if we are not following the Lord with our mind, heart, and soul - following the Lord who led all the nations in Genesis 41 to prepare for what lay before them. We cannot say, I do not have to work; God will take care of me. We cannot say, I do not have to prepare food for the future; God will provide for me daily. We cannot say any of these things, mocking the Lord God before those that know us - if we are not willing to seek the Lord in how to prepare for the future and walk in obedience to Him, working to provide daily as the Lord gives increase.

Joseph in Genesis 41 lays before the Pharaoh the plan that the Lord gave him for the future days that lay before them, seven years down the road. Joseph heard from the Lord and Pharaoh knew the wisdom coming through Joseph, and set him in a high position to guide all of Egypt, during the seven years they planned for what lay before them as well as the next seven years of "famine was over all the face of the earth." The Word goes on in verse 57:

And **all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy *[corn]*; because that the famine was *[so]* sore in all lands.**

I do not believe that people who did not work, did not help in the seven good years were invited to come and partake off of those who labored and obeyed Joseph during the seven good years in which they were graciously given the opportunity to plan for the famine.

Read Genesis 41.33-45 carefully. Joseph, age 30, has the wisdom of the Lord God in directing Egypt in preparing for what lies before them. Notice he does not say, "*Do not worry, we have seven years before the famine comes. We'll take care of it later, and think about what to do and when - later.*" No, Joseph begins immediately and directs them to begin preparing for the famine now that is to come.