

“How The Rich View Thrift”

Genesis 41:15-40 * February 1, 2009

I. *The economic news continues to be bleak*

II. *What does the word ‘thrift’ mean?*

III. *Backdrop to the story of Joseph:*

A. *How did God bring the nation of Israel into existence?*

B. *At its deepest level, why did God raise Israel up?*

C. *Joseph’s part of the story explains how God takes the embryo of Israel and implants it in the womb of:*

D. *How does Joseph end up standing before Pharaoh?*

Lessons On Thrift From The Story of Joseph

Lesson #1 – We need to practice thrift because lean years are _____ to _____.

A. *“Oh, you’re just being a Debbie-Downer!”*

B. *What happened in 2005 that hadn’t happened since 2005?*

C. *Why must lean years come?*

1. *They’re part of the cycle of _____.*

2. *They’re part of the cycle of _____ living.*

Lesson #2 – God uses lean years to accomplish his _____.

A. *What point is clearly made in vss. 25 and 32?*

B. *What possible use did God have for a massive famine?*

C. *Does God get some sort of pleasure out of seeing us suffer and squirm?*

D. *If Satan and God are ‘playing chess’ what is true about the game?*

Isaiah 14:27 – “For the Lord Almighty has purposed and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back”

Lesson #3 – God would _____ his people through the lean years, and so calls us to the practice of _____.

A. *What does Joseph instruct Pharaoh to do?*

B. *Six Laws of Thrift (And If Only We Had Listened!)*

1. Proverbs 13:11 – The best way to accumulate wealth is _____ over time.

2. Proverbs 30:25 – We should save for the future by living _____ our means.

3. Proverbs 22:7 – Avoid _____ whenever & wherever possible.

4. Proverbs 6:10 – _____ hard.

5. Ecclesiastes 11:2 – _____ your savings.

6. Proverbs 11:15 – Do not _____ money to someone who cannot _____ it.

“How The Rich View Thrift”

Genesis 41:15-40 * February 1, 2009

I. *The economic news continues to be bleak*

II. *What does the word ‘thrift’ mean?*

To manage one’s resources well. It is derived from an old Norse word which means: ‘to thrive’ (so, to practice thrift leads to thriving).

III. *Backdrop to the story of Joseph:*

A. *How did God bring the nation of Israel into existence?*
Through one man, Abraham.

B. *At its deepest level, why did God raise Israel up?*
To bring the world back to Himself. Through Israel, God would give the world His Law, His Word, and ultimately His Messiah.

C. *Joseph’s part of the story explains how God takes the embryo of Israel and implants it in the womb of:*
Egypt

D. *How does Joseph end up standing before Pharaoh?*
His brothers sell him into slavery. He ends up imprisoned in Pharaoh’s dungeons. When Pharaoh has a disturbing dream, he learns of Joseph’s ability to interpret dreams. Joseph is brought before him, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Lessons On Thrift From The Story of Joseph

Lesson #1 – We need to practice thrift because lean years are certain to come.

A. *“Oh, you’re just being a Debbie-Downer!”*
Realism is not pessimism. Both human history and God’s Word tell us that hard times are frequent visitors.

B. *What happened in 2005 that hadn’t happened since 1933?*
America had a negative savings rate (no doubt reflecting foolish belief that the values of our homes, and the value of the stock market would continue to rise).

C. *Why must lean years come?*

1. *They’re part of the cycle of nature.*

2. *They’re part of the cycle of moral living.*

Lesson #2 – God uses lean years to accomplish his purposes.

A. *What point is clearly made in vss. 25 and 32?*

That God was in firm control of what was about to happen in Egypt and the surrounding region.

B. *What possible use did God have for a massive famine?*
The famine is what compelled Joseph’s father Jacob to bring his family down to Egypt. It was the method God chose for ‘implanting the embryo of Israel’ into the ‘womb of Egypt’ so that Israel could grow strong as a nation.

C. *Does God get some sort of pleasure out of seeing us suffer and squirm?*

Never. He has a perfect will which is consistent with his good and loving nature. But he also has a permissive will which allows suffering to come, but even here, he is so powerful, that he can turn the suffering into something redemptive.

D. *If Satan and God are ‘playing chess’ what is true about the game?*

God is always five moves ahead of Satan. Things that Satan intends to harm us, God turns and uses against him to make the rule of God stronger in our hearts.

Isaiah 14:27 – “For the Lord Almighty has purposed and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back”

Lesson #3 – God would protect his people through the lean years, and so calls us to the practice of thrift.

A. What does Joseph instruct Pharaoh to do?

To set aside a fifth of Egypt's harvest during the seven good years which will precede the years of famine.

B. Six Laws of Thrift (And If Only We Had Listened!)

1. Proverbs 13:11 – The best way to accumulate wealth is **slowly** over time.
2. Proverbs 30:25 – We should save for the future by living **below** our means.
3. Proverbs 22:7 – Avoid **debt** whenever & wherever possible.
4. Proverbs 6:10 – **Work** hard.
5. Ecclesiastes 11:2 – **Diversify** your savings.
6. Proverbs 11:15 – Do not **loan** money to someone who cannot **repay** it.