



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

MINISTRY SCHOOL Lesson 10 Functions of The Minister (Part 3)

THE PRINCE

This is the part three of our study on the functions of the Minister. As we have already examined but reiterate here, **EVERY BELIEVER IS A MINISTER!** We will not look at one of the key areas where there have been gaps in the mindset and teaching of the Church. Somehow the prevailing attitude is that Monday is not a Holy as Sunday.

Many Believers cannot feel or sense that God is remotely interested in their secular work. So Christians working for a living are caught in this conundrum of “how can I truly serve and live for God if I spend all these hours doing nonessential material things?”

³¹ So then, whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, do all** to the glory of [our great] God.
1 Corinthians 10:31

This simple statement has profound meaning. Whatever you do, let God be glorified through it. Let your life be to the Glory of God. An Oak tree that has ‘stood in one spot for one hundred years’ glorifies God as part of His creation.

“A tree gives glory to God by being a tree. For in being what God means it to be it is obeying (God). It consents so to speak to God’s creative love. It is expressing an idea which is in God...”

Thomas Merton.

²³ **Whatever you do** [whatever your task may be], work from the soul [that is, put in your very best effort], as [something done] **for the Lord and not for men**, ²⁴ knowing [with all certainty] that it is from the Lord [not from men] that you will receive the inheritance which is your [greatest] reward. It is the **Lord Christ whom you [actually] serve**
Colossians 3:23,24 AMP

²³ In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were doing it for the Lord, not for people. ²⁴ Remember that you will receive your reward from the Lord, which he promised to his people. **You are serving the Lord Christ**
Colossians 3:23,24 NCV

There is dignity in labour and work. Even though Eden was a Paradise with no sin or toil, God **gave Adam work before He gave him a companion**. Which implies that the work was primarily for the Glory of God. When you realise that your body and temple was created by



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God to move, function and be applied to things, you begin to realise that from your waking moments every day to when you slump to sleep, your whole being is a work of art and wonder and worship.

Therefore, remember that your typing a letter, driving a bus, nursing a patient or presenting a report, all these things and your capacity to do them come from God. The pressure of work deadlines, meeting targets, producing profit or the sweat of labour are all to the Glory of God. You are to do all these things as unto the Lord, no matter how mundane or boring your task appears to be.

²³ In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. **Work as if you were doing it for the Lord**, not for people.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

The Pit

²³ So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of *many* colors that *was* on him. ²⁴ Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit *was* empty; *there was* no water in it

This was perhaps the lowest point of Joseph's life because he had just been betrayed by his brothers and thrown into a pit. If he stayed there, he would die because there was no water in it. This was dry and arid territory. The key reason for his predicament was due to jealousy.

Have you ever wondered what went through Joseph's mind during this longest day of his life? In the world we will encounter all forms of brokenness of humanity and we may be attacked and thrown into some pits, during our journey through life. You need to be aware of your surroundings and how people really feel about you. Try not to be as naïve and clueless as Joseph was at this point in his life.

The Prisoner

²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so *the brothers* pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty *shekels* of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Whatever your condition and whatever your lot, know that the purpose of God is working on your behalf. The agenda of the enemy was to kill Joseph but Reuben intervened. God was working even in what Joseph would have considered the worst day of his life. Even when you lose your job or failed to get the job, know that God is sovereign and is working things out for your good.



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Potiphar's House

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ²The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did ^{to} prosper in his hand. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all *that* he had he put ^{to} under his authority. ⁵So it was, from the time *that* he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's ^{to} hand, and he did not know what he had except for the ^{to} bread which he ate.

Genesis 39:1-6

For every Christian working in 'Potiphar's house', the Lord is not just with You, He is IN You! This is a good challenge for every working Believer. **TAKE GOD TO WORK!** Imagine what Jesus would do if He spent a day physically with you at work. Yet He is with You. It is time to have a very different mindset to what you currently have. **Let the Lord prosper your work.** If you know categorically that your work is not from God and that He is against what you do, **leave your job!** Go and get a job, no matter how mundane that you can take God to!

¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Joseph got on with the work he found himself in. He did not mop and complain but applied himself to the tasks at hand. He was a privileged boy from a good and well to do family; yet here he was. A slave! The Grace of God was evident in his work and this was noticeable. Let **your output and work be distinct.**

Notice. This was Potiphar's house. God we may think had no business prospering such a Godless place, yet He did. You may think, God has no business blessing your workplace and organisation, yet you are there, and God wants to provide His abundant Grace over your work. Your labour and work is worship to God so let it glorify Christ!

Commit to the LORD **whatever you do,**
and he will establish your plans.

Proverbs 16:3



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The Prison

¹⁹ So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. ²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners *were* confined. And he was there in the prison. ²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave^{to} him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who *were* in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything *that was* under ^{to} Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made *it* prosper.

Genesis 39:19-23

The reason for choosing Joseph for this study is twofold. Firstly, Joseph is your ordinary everyday Guy. Apart from having insight into dreams, he has no special power apart from a good work ethic and a great attitude. Secondly, his story resonates because it is believable. Joseph does not open any red seas or multiply fish. He is like most of us who work 9-5 every day and who have stories of injustice done against us. We can relate to Joseph.

Joseph takes God to work. Or perhaps, **God takes Joseph to work?** In other words, You too can take God to work. Or perhaps, God allowed or orchestrated your current job? Allow the Grace of God to show in your workplace. Joseph didn't go around preaching, he just connected to people and his purpose was fulfilled from there.

The Pharaoh

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh. ¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and *there is* no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you *that* you can understand a dream, to interpret it."

Genesis 41:14-15

We have looked at the principle of God given gifts for life and ministry. One key fact is that **a gift is none religious in its application.** People will feel the effect of your gift without discrimination. A gift opens doors faster than preaching can, many times. Use your gift! Allow people to remember you because of your gift and not necessarily your religion. This is how the Gospel of the Kingdom works. Most people did not know who Jesus was, but they enjoyed and received His gifts.

**A gift will get you in
to see anyone.**

Proverbs 18:16



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The Palace

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went throughout all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ Now in the seven plentiful years the ground brought forth abundantly. ⁴⁸ So he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt and laid up the food in the cities; he laid up in every city the food of the fields which surrounded them. ⁴⁹ Joseph gathered grain very much, as the sand of the sea, until he stopped counting, for *it was* immeasurable.

Genesis 41:46-49.

Joseph is authentically himself at every level. His work ethic remains, and his results remain.

As ministers in the workplace, promotion or elevation should not change us or how we worked when we were a grade or several levels below. If in fact we are working for God, our output and outlook should remain.

The Purpose

Then he said: "I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; **for God sent me** before you to preserve life. ⁶ For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ **And God sent me** before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, **but God;** and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 45:5-8

One of the striking things about Joseph, was that his journey from the Pit to the Palace had shaped and prepared him into his PURPOSE. All the odd hour shifts, the thankless jobs, the labour and toil and challenges of work all have a purpose.

We must learn from Joseph's Story, how God is able to use us even when we don't see a point to the work or the 'craziness' we are in.

And have made us kings and **priests** to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:10