



Dgroup Discussion Guide for June 26, 2016

Honesty is STILL the Blessed Policy

Scripture: Genesis 45-47

There were many ups and downs in the life of Joseph, the pinnacle of which was when Pharaoh made him Prime minister of Egypt. And because Joseph was trustworthy, Pharaoh did not have to worry about the affairs of his kingdom. He was blessed not because of who Joseph was but because the presence of God was with Joseph. Likewise Joseph was where he was at that time because of God's faithfulness in his life.

Genesis 45 tells us of Joseph's meeting with his brothers and how he reveals himself to them. He became honest with them and told them who he is. But instead of being proud and thinking of revenge, he remained focused on God. He says in Genesis 45:4-8 ***"I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now do not be grieved or angry ^[e] with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great ^[f] deliverance. ⁸ Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.***

Joseph understood that God was in control and that this was all part of His plan. It was because of his honesty that his brothers were blessed, his father was blessed and he was blessed.

When Israel heard this news, he built an altar and thanked the Lord. God then appeared to him in his dream and reminded him of His promise to make them a great nation and then assured him that God will go with him into Egypt.

In whatever we do, wherever we go. . . we should always seek to find God's presence. Always bear in mind the triangle of God's blessings. When we believe and we have faith and then obey, then we can experience God's presence and His blessings in our life.

So Israel, all his descendants and all their belongings were on their way to Egypt. Joseph, his wife and two children meet them at Goshen. After this, Joseph instructs his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they were keepers of livestock instead of saying that they were shepherds because he was concerned that they might not be allowed to live in Egypt. (Genesis 47) But once presented to Pharaoh, the brothers told the truth that they were shepherds, despite Joseph's apprehensions Pharaoh allowed his family to stay.

There are situations in our life that we too fall into this kind of choice. Do we tell the complete truth or do we choose to water down the truth? But is watering down the truth still telling the truth? 99% honesty is still not honesty. We must continue to obey God in ALL and leave the consequences of our obedience to Him.

God intervened in this situation. He changed Pharaoh's heart. Proverbs 21:1 says ***The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.*** It is only when we come clean, and live by honesty that we will experience God's faithfulness and presence in our life.

There are many authorities above us, here they are and what the bible tells us about them.

1. Government over it's citizens (Romans 13:1-3)

2. Husband over his wife (Ephesians 5:22-24)
3. Parents over their children (Ephesians 6:1-3)
4. Employers over their employees (Ephesians 6:5-6)
5. Pastors over the congregation (Hebrews 13:17)
6. **God and God's word over everything and everyone** (1 Corinthians 11:3, Matthew 15:2-3)

Our attitude should be: nothing can come between me and my God. I will obey all His commands despite of and inspite of what other people may think. Galatians 1:10 tells us ***For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, then I am not a bond servant of Christ?***

Which are we going to choose – to be a people-pleaser or to be pleasing to God?

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	<p>Personal: Is there anything in my life that I am STILL not completely honest about? Do I have a tendency to compromise obedience to God in order to please people? What human authority do I find difficult to submit to?</p>
	<p>Family: As a family talk about the importance of being truthful is to improve relationship. How honest are we with God, with ourselves and with each other? What makes it difficult for me to submit to authority? What makes it difficult for me to obey.</p>
	<p>Discipleship: Share with your discipleship group your struggles with honesty and authority. How do you plan to improve on this? Make specific action points.</p>
	<p>Church/ Ministry: In the light of all that is happening in the world today, how am I actively and intentionally sharing the gospel to those who are around me?</p>

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.