

# Master Plan

## Working on Working for the Lord

March 15, 2026



*Today, we're putting ourselves into the shoes, to learn the lessons, of those in the stories of God!*



So, if you're honest with yourself, **how often do you play the victim?** Why not play the victor? It's *far* more fulfilling ... because, it's your calling.



For whatever is *born* of God overcomes the world. And *this is the victory* that has **[is, and will]** overcome the world— our faith. – 1 John 5:4 NKJ

**In the midst of our misery.** Our trust. Our hope. Our love. Because of:



The *Lamb of God* who *takes away the sin of the world!* – John 1:29 NIV

"In this world you will have trouble. **[Cuz otherwise you'd have nothing to overcome]** But take heart! **[Cuz]** I have overcome the world." – John 16:33 NIV



**[So]** **[They** *overcame* **]** by the *blood* of the *Lamb* and by the *Word* of their *testimony*; **[cuz their actions showed that]** they did not love their **[short]** *lives [down here]* so much as to *shrink [in fear]* from *death*. – Revelation 12:11 NIV

**[Because]** *Death* has been *swallowed up* in *victory*. Where, O *death*, is your *victory?* ... **[For our]** **[God]** gives us the *victory* through our *Lord Jesus Christ*. – 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NIV

**[So]** Do not be overcome by *evil*, but overcome *evil* with *good*. – Romans 12:21 NKJ

**[Cuz]** *Yours*, O *Lord*, is ... the *power* and the *glory* and the *victory* – 1 Chronicles 29:11 ESV



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So, **what do people see when they see you?** *Victim* or *victor?*



Joseph had been **[betrayed, trapped, kidnapped, enslaved and]** taken down to Egypt. **[And]** Potiphar ... *bought* him ... **[But]** when his master saw that the *Lord* was *with* him ... Joseph found favor in his eyes – Genesis 39:1-4 NIV

You see, **Potiphar saw what Joseph believed**, by the way he *behaved* while *enslaved*. And it *caught* his eye. Cuz it was *attractive*. Which means **Joseph modeled true faith in a very visible way**. Which actually *can't* be *helped* – *good* or *bad*. Because, **everyone who watches you sees exactly what you believe**. It's like the old expression: **I can't hear what you're saying, your actions are too loud**.

What's so *amazing* about the *R-rated testimony* of *Joseph*, is that **even though he's repeatedly victimized, he refuses to play the victim**. He's too preoccupied *behaving* like a *victor!*

Joseph is the *perfect* Old Testament *picture* of the New Testament *practice* that Paul *advocates*.

Whatever you do, work at it with *all your heart*, as *working for the Lord*, not for men, [good or bad] since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. [Cuz] It is the Lord Christ [you say] you are serving. – Colossians 3:23-24 NIV

And it may not be in His *master plan* for your *eternal best* to give you *health* or *wealth* or *secular power*. Because those are *secondary*. But it's always that **you'll thrive where you're planted, while growing closer to the Sower**. And the *only way* we'll miss out on that reward, is by *playing the victim*, and *seizing self-centered control*. Which is the *evil opposite* of **God-centered self-control**.

For we walk by *faith*, not by *sight*. – 2 Corinthians 5:7 ESV

Cuz He's *all* about *strengthening* our *faith* and *transforming* our *heart*. But, **our heart can only change when we choose to serve where we're sent**. Joseph could've given himself *permission* to *sink* into *bitterness* and *resentment*, but he would've *suffered* far more, not less.

[So] As *slaves of Christ*, do the *will of God* with *all your heart*. Work with *enthusiasm*, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. – Ephesians 6:5-7 NLT



If tomorrow, *whoever* you're *accountable to*, *answer to*, or *serve* (be it a *boss*, *teacher*, *manager*, *spouse*, *client*, *neighbor*, or *coach*) was *replaced* with *Jesus*, **what would be the biggest thing you'd change?** I think I know you well enough to know: *attitude!* Cuz no matter what you *think* is the *biggest*, **it's the attitude behind it that fuels it**. It's like the *other old expression*: **Life is 10% what happens and 90% how I respond**. So, when we see our *serving* as *honoring* the Lord, it *empowers self-control*, which is the *field* whereby *all* the *other fruit* of the Spirit grow. Cuz **it'll inspire a grateful desire to conduct yourself in a way that pleases Him**, cuz you *trust* Him, cuz He's *with you* and *loves you*. Potiphar was the *Captain of the Guard*. (Gen 39:1) And his *title* in *Hebrew*, literally translates to *Chief Executioner*; and we're *told* that the *royal prison* was in his *mansion* on a *plantation* (Gen 40:3; 39:5) that *more than sustained* his *entire domain*. Because, *officials of his day* were *compensated* in *government land* to *farm* for *food* and *trade*. This is a 4000-year-old model of a *cattle barn* from Potiphar's day; as is this *slaughter house*; as well as this *granary*.<sup>1</sup> And *wheat* was the *mainstay crop*. And Potiphar's *palace job* would've *required* him to have *stewards* to *run his operation*. On the *plantation*. Inside the *mansion*. And over the *prison compound*.

[And] The Lord was *with Joseph* [in his words and actions and attitude] and he *prospered*, [in all he did with all his heart as for the Lord] and he *lived* in the *house* ... [And] The Lord *blessed* the *household* of the *Egyptian* because of *Joseph*. [A despised Hebrew] The *blessing* of the Lord was on *everything* Potiphar had, both *in the house* and *in the field*. – Genesis 39:2-5 NIV

But **he would've started in the fields**. This is called a *story compression*. And it's *presented* as a *progression* of *promotions*. Cuz you don't *bring* an *unknown slave* into your *house* till you're *fairly certain* he won't *slit your throat* in your *sleep!* And you don't put an *untrained, unsophisticated teenager* from a *rural culture* – who doesn't *speak the language* – in *charge* of *Pharaoh's royal Egyptian operation*. So, there's a *lot of ground* and *seasons* contained in that: "and he prospered".

<sup>1</sup> Egyptian, Middle Kingdom Models from the Tomb of Chancellor Meketre, B.C. 1981-1975



But one thing's for sure, he *doesn't* just *endure*. He *thrives!* The *mud brick* bunker must've felt like a five-star hotel! "Wow. Walls. And no more murderous brothers. And these sheets – Egyptian cotton? And I think I just passed a *tiled squat-toilet!*" The little things make a big difference.

And he not only *flourishes* in his fieldwork, like no field-hand before him, but he's *burning* the midnight oil lamp, to learn to speak, think, act, look, and of course walk like an Egyptian. Cuz his newly eye-linered eyes would've been on *that* big ol' mansion. Cuz *that's* where the *glamor* is. "I'm wasting my time, Lord; promote me already!" **We often fail to see our field as ministry.** So we stare at whatever our mansion dream is, and hold onto the promise, that:

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much – Luke 16:10 NIV

But Joseph didn't have a clue that the mansion *isn't* the *goal*. It's just a minor stop for a bit more suffering to prepare him to become the *2nd* most powerful man in the world. Because **the field was always the master plan.** His first dream was where? A *wheat field*. And the wheat was doing what? Bowing to him. (Gen 37:7) Cuz **God called him to master the field.** But, God's gotta a lotta *work to do* in a *short period* of time to *prepare* him for his created purpose. Because:

[Pride goes] before a fall. [Into a pit] – Proverbs 16:18 NIV

And before *honor* is *humility*. – Proverbs 15:33 NKJ

Which means, **before the wheat will bow to him, he's gotta bow to the wheat.** To *learn* it, *care* for it, and *relate* to it, in order to *grow*, *harvest*, and *store* enough of it to *feed* a *nation* and its *neighbors* for *seven years!* His *mind's* on a *big ol' mansion*, but *little* does he *know*. **He wasn't just planted, he was posted, cuz the field was the goal!** The *mission* just *grew*. And *no time* was *wasted*. And if he *hadn't* been *faithful* in his *little field*, little Joe would've *lost out* on his *big reward*.

"Do you not say, 'Four months *more* and *then* the harvest' ... *open your eyes* and *look at the fields!* They are *ripe* for *harvest*." [Right where you're planted!] – John 4:34-35 NIV

"The *harvest* is *plentiful*, but the *workers* are *few*" – Luke 10:2 NIV

[So] Do your *work* with *enthusiasm* ... as if you were *serving* the *Lord* – Ephesians 6:6-7 NCV

For God is *not unjust* so as to *overlook* your *work* and the *love* you have *demonstrated* for *His name* by *having served* and *continuing to serve* [as unto Him] – Hebrews 6:10 NAB

Joseph could've *seen* Potiphar as his *oppressor*. But instead, he sees the Lord as his *blessor*. But when we feel abandoned by God and hurt by others, **we tend to default to playing the victim** and acting out in self-centered ways. Cuz there are *always* so *many* to *blame!* But, **you can't play the victim without making God the villain.** Because you *know* that *whatever* you're *going through*, He *allowed*.

Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both *calamities* and *good things* come? ... [Therefore] Let us *examine our ways* [in the *good times*] and *test* them, [in the *calamities*] and let us *return* to the Lord. [And] Let us *lift up* our *hearts* and our *hands* [in *surrender*] to God – Lamentations 3:37-41 NIV

And when Joseph eventually reveals himself to his bowing brothers, he takes it a step further.

He said, "I am your brother Joseph, [they must've just stared in disbelief] the one you sold into Egypt! [Oh, that one] ... It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ... [In fact] It was *not you* who *sent* me here, but *God*. – Genesis 45:4-8 NIV

He just *used* the *opportunity* you and the Ishmaelites *gave* Him when you all *played* the *victim*. For those who don't know the story, **the big surprise is that Joseph *isn't* a victim!** He was just *victimized* by those *playing* the *victim*. Cuz, you see, his horrible situation wasn't something God was just allowing ... **it was something God was miraculously providing!**

Quite often we give the enemy way too much credit. He only gets to do what he's given permission to do. But he sure knows how to milk our victimhood for all it's worth! But we have to go through what we'll need to succeed in our created destiny. Because, **He's training you to conquer whatever's currently conquering you.** And, if you love the Lord and pursue His purpose, you can know that everything in your life has been, is, and will be an active ingredient in your uniquely created and deeply fulfilling purpose. (Rom 8:28) Because **God will only allow what you'd approve with His perspective.** Granted, that's hard to hold onto when you're in the middle of your story. But, the big surprise in the end will be that, **you're not a victim!** Even if you're victimized, **it'll just be part of your bigger victory!** All that to say: **What field are you in?** Do you see it as ministry ... yet? Cuz just like Joseph, **you were created for the fieldwork!** So, are you serving faithfully and gratefully in your field? Because:

[Potiphar] who was [Pharaoh's] Captain of the guard, bought Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. [For revenge. But little Joe hit the jackpot with Potiphar's plantation as opposed to, say, a *salt mine!* Well] The Lord was with Joseph [because he lived out the fruit of the Spirit out in the fields] and he prospered, [learning the language, the culture, the business operation, and how to apply eyeliner; and he got along really well with others; and he moved up the ranks among the field hands] and [then the day came when he was qualified to be promoted to house-slave; so] he lived in the [slave quarters inside the palatial] house of his Egyptian master. [And even though the Egyptians abhorred the Hebrews for sacrificing animals they thought holy] When his master saw [firsthand] that the Lord was with him [in word and action and attitude] and that [via love, joy, patience, kindness, and self-control] the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in [Potiphar's] eyes and became his [personal] attendant. [And after proving himself more than capable of that duty] Potiphar put him in charge of his household [the slaves and schedules and day-to-day responsibilities], and [eventually] [Potiphar] entrusted to [Joseph's] care everything he owned. [Because] From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed [everyone and everything in] the household of the Egyptian because of [the way] Joseph [treated them and carried out his duties]. [And that kind of example – especially in leadership – rubs off on everyone around you; so] The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house [including the royal prison in the house (Gen 40:3)] and in the field. So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; [because] with Joseph in charge, [Potiphar] did not [need to] concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now [on top of all this] Joseph was well-built and handsome [so that certainly didn't hurt!] – Genesis 39:1-6 NIV

But remember, If we won't *fall* through *adversity*, the *enemy* is more than *glad* to try *prosperity*.

But *that's* God's R-rated *story* for *another* day.