

Joseph A Politician

Objectives

To learn about the aspects of Joseph's personality that enabled him to be a good politician and a great leader

References

The Bible: Genesis Chapters 39-41

Scriptural Verses

"The Lord made all he did to prosper in his hands" (Genesis 39:3)

Lesson Guidelines

Joseph is a good example of a successful leader and politician. God prepared him for this mission through different and difficult circumstances, as well as endowing him with certain qualities which suited his role.

Joseph's main characteristics that allowed him to be a leader and a politician are:

1. Trustworthiness:

Joseph was able to gain the trust of his father when he sent him to check on his brothers. He also was entrusted by his Egyptian master on his entire house. Even the prison keeper entrusted him on the rest of the prisoners. Finally, he was entrusted by Pharaoh to save the whole land of Egypt from severe famine.

2. Tolerance:

Joseph tolerated so many hardships throughout his life. He was thrown in the well by his brothers. He was taken as a slave to the land of Egypt after being the favorite spoiled son by his father in his house. He was tempted by the wife of his master. He was finally left in the prison for many years although he was innocent. Through all of these circumstances and hardships, Joseph demonstrated great tolerance and faith in God's deliverance.

3. Hard Working:

Joseph must have been a hard worker since he gained the trust of his master and of the jailer in the prison to take care of all the other prisoners. Additionally, he organized and cared for the whole land of Egypt through a difficult time. The whole responsibility of maintaining the Egyptians through the famine years was left to him. This indicates that he was working hard for many years if not continuously from the minute he was taken from his house.

4. Good Planner:

Joseph was a good planner, he immediately advised Pharaoh after explaining his dreams of the actions necessary to survive the famine. He gave him a clear plan with specific details, which impressed Pharaoh (Gen. 41:33-37).

5. Likeable:

Joseph was liked by everyone who dealt with him. He was the favorite son of his father Jacob who gave him the robe of many colors. He was also liked by the Egyptian master and his wife. He was even liked by the prison keeper and by Pharaoh. Lastly, he was able to gain the love and gratitude of his brothers who initially were jealous of him.

6. Presentable:

When Joseph was called from the prison to explain Pharaoh's dreams, he immediately shaved and changed his clothing to come and meet Pharaoh. Thus, Joseph cared for his appearance in front of his superiors and others (Gen 41: 15).

Joseph must also have had a good appearance when he was in the house of Potiphar, so that his wife desired him.

7. Acknowledged God as the reason for his success:

This is Joseph's most important characteristic which enabled him to be a good leader. He always acknowledged God as the reason for his talent of explaining dreams. He acknowledged the fact that any evil he would commit would be a sin against God. He actually felt the presence of God with him despite all that he had been through. Throughout the life of Joseph it was clear that God was with him so he was a successful man (Gen. 39:5). Joseph knew that he could not succeed without God's support.

Conclusion

Many of us might have similar characteristics as Joseph had to become great and successful leaders. Leadership can be in a spiritual field, at work or even in politics. The most important thing is to surrender to God's will and plan for us. If He would like to use any of us for a leadership position then we need to work with Him and try to acquire more personal characteristics to be as good and as successful as Joseph was.

Activities/Discussion Points

1. Divide into groups to discuss additional characteristics of Joseph that helped him to become a good politician
2. Discuss if politics is a suitable pursuit for Christians with all its possible immoral pathways.