

The Thread

WEEK 7 - DEVOTION 5

"You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." - Genesis 41:40

If you spend enough time driving around the Southeast or the West Coast, you'll no doubt encounter one of these little-known places, tucked off the beaten path, that will sell you a chance to pan for gold in a river or stream. The key to getting the gold and jewels out of a lumpy pile of river sand is in the process of sifting. Sifting involves slowly pouring the sand from the pan into a screen. The sand passes through the screen while the larger particles remain on the screen. If you work at it long enough, you'll begin to see shining minerals. And, if you're incredibly lucky, maybe even some gold!

The sifting process is much like the challenging times we face in our lives. Joseph had gone through a 13-year-long ordeal of slavery and imprisonment because of jealousy in his family. But there is good news for Joseph in the Scripture passage today.

Get your Bible and look up Genesis 41:37-45. Take a few moments to read and digest the passage. At this point in Joseph's life, he has been through a long, hard several years. Just like pressure can turn coal into a diamond, long times of hardship can reveal the Christ-like character in a person. Thirteen long years of God "sifting" out the sands of weakness in Joseph's life were over. Joseph's perseverance and obedience to God in the hardest of times had lead to a position as far from slavery as possible. Joseph had been appointed governor over all of Egypt!

Consider this:

- What is the most difficult time of challenge you have ever been through?
- How were you stronger after getting through that challenging time?
- What makes God's "sifting" process in your life so difficult?

Take a moment today to ask God to prepare you to persevere even in the most difficult of times, knowing that He is preparing you to shine brightly for Him like gold or a precious jewel.