

Food for Thought

For the week of June 9, 2013

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

1. This week we heard how Joseph was a young man with amazing giftedness, yet lacked understanding of how to display it. As followers of Christ, we all have gifts and abilities that God wants to use for his kingdom to make a difference. Understanding their purpose can help us know how to use and apply them. How does 1 Corinthians 12 help you understand your gifts and abilities, their purpose, how to put them into action, and the role they have in making a difference?

Take a moment and write down any skills, talents, or abilities you think you may have. Can you think of any ways you could put them into action to help others and make a difference? If so, is there anything you need to do differently to put them into action?

2. Joseph's lack of discernment on what to say and when to say it got him into a lot of trouble. Unfortunately, the pain of the wrong words at the wrong time is something we've all experienced. How do the following verses help you avoid this pitfall and understand the power of your words?

Proverbs 10:19

Proverbs 12:18, 25

Proverbs 15:1, 23

Proverbs 16:24

Proverbs 17:27

3. There's no doubt one of Joseph's low points in life was his brothers throwing him in a pit and then later selling him as a slave. Fortunately for him (and us) God was still at work in the midst of this turmoil. What hope do the following verses give that God is still at work for his good no matter how bad everything seems?

Psalms 138:7-8

Psalms 9:16-18

Romans 5:1-5

Philippians 1:6

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Proverbs 10:19

19 Sin is not ended by multiplying words,
but the prudent hold their tongues. [NIV]

Proverbs 12:18

18 The words of the reckless pierce like swords,
but the tongue of the wise brings healing. [NIV]

Proverbs 12:25

25 Anxiety weighs down the heart,
but a kind word cheers it up. [NIV]

Proverbs 15:1

1 A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. [NIV]

Proverbs 15:23

23 A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—
and how good is a timely word! [NIV]

Proverbs 16:24

24 Gracious words are a honeycomb,
sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. [NIV]

Proverbs 17:27

27 The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint,
and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. [NIV]

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Psalm 138:7-8

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life.
You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes;
with your right hand you save me.
8 The Lord will vindicate me;
your love, Lord, endures forever—
do not abandon the works of your hands. [NIV]

Psalm 9:16-18

16 The Lord is known by his acts of justice;
the wicked are ensnared by the work of their hands.
17 The wicked go down to the realm of the dead,
all the nations that forget God.
18 But God will never forget the needy;
the hope of the afflicted will never perish. [NIV]

Romans 5:1-5

Peace and Hope

1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. [NIV]

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. [NIV]