

A WORD ON WORSHIP

Review of Message from May 21, 2017

BY PASTOR ANDREW KICKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hear Sunday Sermons at www.SunriseTC.org

Genesis 39:1-3

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.”



Each of us wants to succeed in life. But if we want true success, it's crucial to work out a biblical definition of the term. Otherwise, you'll be like the guy who climbed the ladder of success only to find that it was leaning against the wrong wall. You'll waste your life pursuing the wrong goals and making wrong decisions. If our target is wrong, we will fail even if we hit it.

Our American culture defines success primarily in financial terms, throwing in, perhaps, the ideas of power, fame, and the elusive quality: "happiness." As Christians, we can easily see the fallacy in defining success in those terms, and yet often we are influenced by our culture more than we care to admit. Many pastors succumb to the prevailing definition, thinking that if you pastor a large church, or gain national recognition through writing a book or speaking at important gatherings, you are successful. Christians reveal their skewed definition of success when they rush out to buy the latest story of some celebrity who has made a profession of faith, or when they parade famous athletes before the church as if they were spiritual authorities. So we need to bring into sharp focus the biblical answer to the question, "What is true success?"

Was Joseph more blessed by God or more successful when he was at the top of Potiphar's household than when he was in the dungeon? They were just different phases of God's training program in which He was preparing Joseph for the job He had for him under Pharaoh. Joseph was truly successful, whether he was in Potiphar's house or in the prison, because God's hand was on him. I believe that is the biblical definition of true success. True success is to have God's blessing on your life. If you have God's blessing, you have everything, even if you're poor and unknown; if you lack God's blessing, you ultimately will have nothing, even if you're rich and famous now.

I want each of us to covet God's blessing for yourself. Like Jacob wrestling with the angel, we all should say, "I will not let you go unless you bless me" (Gen. 32:26). You can live a comfortable Christian life, serve in the church and succeed in worldly terms. But if you lack God's blessing on your life, you've missed true success. True success is when it can be said of us, whether we are in Potiphar's house or in prison: The Lord is with that man or woman. Being blessed by God, we then will be used as His channels of blessing for the nations through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunrise Community Church
Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst
EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.

9642 Live Oak Ave. • Temple City, CA 91780

(626) 287-6120 • PastorAndy@SunriseTC.org • www.SunriseTC.org