**Crisis Management  
God Meant it for Good- A study of the life of Joseph- (Part 17)**  
(Pastor John Mulligan)  
  
**Genesis 47:13-26 (ESV)**

**Joseph’s personal crisis equipped him to lead with integrity in a world in crisis.**

**Hard times result in hard decisions (both for leaders and those they lead):**

**1) The people yielded their purse strings.**

Genesis 47:13-15 ESV

Now there was no food in all the land, for the famine was very severe, so that the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan languished by reason of the famine. (14) And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, in exchange for the grain that they bought. And Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house. (15) And when the money was all spent in the land of Egypt and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die before your eyes? For our money is gone."

**2) The people yielded most of their possessions.**

Genesis 47:16-17 ESV

And Joseph answered, "Give your livestock, and I will give you food in exchange for your livestock, if your money is gone." (17) So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks, the herds, and the donkeys. He supplied them with food in exchange for all their livestock that year.

**3) The people yielded their property.**

Genesis 47:18-20 ESV

And when that year was ended, they came to him the following year and said to him, "We will not hide from my lord that our money is all spent. The herds of livestock are my lord's. There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our land. (19) Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for food, and we with our land will be servants to Pharaoh. And give us seed that we may live and not die, and that the land may not be desolate." (20) So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, for all the Egyptians sold their fields, because the famine was severe on them. The land became Pharaoh's.

**4) The people yielded their position of prominence.**

Genesis 47:21-22 ESV

As for the people, he made servants of them from one end of Egypt to the other. (22) Only the land of the priests he did not buy, for the priests had a fixed allowance from Pharaoh and lived on the allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land.

New King James Version (NKJV) verse 21 And as for the people, he moved them into the cities, from *one* end of the borders of Egypt to the *other* end.

**5) The people yielded a portion of their production**

Genesis 47:23-26 ESV

Then Joseph said to the people, "Behold, I have this day bought you and your land for Pharaoh. Now here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land. (24) And at the harvests you shall give a fifth to Pharaoh, and four fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and as food for yourselves and your households, and as food for your little ones." (25) And they said, "You have saved our lives; may it please my lord, we will be servants to Pharaoh." (26) So Joseph made it a statute concerning the land of Egypt, and it stands to this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth; the land of the priests alone did not become Pharaoh's.

**Crisis does not determine character—Crisis reveals character (our foundation):**

1. **We get to re-examine our purpose (who we will follow)**

Genesis 41:55 ESV When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."

1. **We get to re-evaluate our priorities (why is that so important?)**
2. **We get to re-establish our principles (what are my non-negotiables?)**

**Jesus put it this way:**

Matthew 7:24-27 ESV

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. (25) And the rain ***(crisis)*** fell, and the floods came ***(crisis),*** and the winds blew ***(crisis)*** and beat on that house ***(that life/family***), but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. (26) And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. (27) And the rain fell ***(crisis),*** and the floods came ***(crisis),*** and the winds blew ***(crisis)*** and beat against that house ***(that life/family)***, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."