

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS – Gen.40: 1-end; Matt.13: 44; 26: 36-56

Introduction:

Success is dreams and desires come true – Mk.11: 24. God's desires versus man's desires – Isa.55: 8-9. What is your dream/desire?

Success has no friend or foe. It has a price tag for anyone who can afford it. It is expensive and not cheap either e.g. David & Araunah – 2Sam.24: 20-24; the merchant – Matt.13: 44-46; The Rich young ruler couldn't afford it – Mk.10: 17-22 but Elisha did – 2Kg.2: 1-15.

True success is more than money and material gains (Ps.62: 10), it is beyond the earthly plain (1Cor.15: 19). True success should be all-round and all-encompassing success (Mk.8: 36; 3Jn.2).

Earthly success is visible and temporary; making heaven may be presently invisible but it is the ultimate and permanent success – Lk.10: 17-20; 2Cor.4: 18 e.g. Abraham (Heb.11: 8-10), Joseph in Portiphar's House; Elisha & Elijah.

Believers are strangers and pilgrims in this world like Joseph in the House of Portiphar – Jn.17: 9, 14-16; 1Pet.2: 11.

Joseph wanted to lobby the Chief Butler

There is a difference between goodwill, God sending human help and lobbying.

It's in human nature to lobby

But God wants us to depend on Him always – Prov.3: 5-6

Other cases people who wanted to lobby in the Bible:

1. Abigail – 1Sam.25 (31)
2. Mother of Zebedee's sons – Matt.20: 20-28

Lobbying is a major problem in Nigeria and the 3rd world generally

The Problem of Lobbying:

1. Lobbying is dodging and avoiding paying the price of success. It is cheating.
2. Lobbying is Satan's short-cut usually based on family, tribal sentiments, group loyalty, bribery or sexual gratification.
3. Lobbying is borne out of fear and destroys faith.
4. Lobbying is a carnal weapon that belittles God and over-magnifies man.
5. Lobbying is self-serving and gives God's glory to man.
6. Lobbyists often end up holding beneficiaries to ransom. Note: No more mention of Chief Butler after Joseph got to the palace. Not if he had lobbied.
7. Lobbying weakens the Christian testimony and witness.
8. Lobbying creates artificial scarcity and makes intelligent, good and innocent people suffer.
9. Lobbying destroys merit, equity, social justice and fair-play.
10. Lobbying breeds mediocrity and kills initiative, disorder, ingenuity, creativity, innovation, hard work, diligence, industry and performance.
11. Lobbying breeds abuse of power and privileges, bribery and corruption.
12. Lobbying and corruption as twin brothers once started perpetuate themselves from generation to generation.