

Save Wisely

Genesis 41:25-57

“Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, Prepares her food in the summer And gathers her provision in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6–8)

“Four things are small on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise: The ants are not a strong people, But they prepare their food in the summer;” (Proverbs 30:24–25)

“And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.”” (Mark 12:41–44)

1. Bad Stuff is Going to Happen to all of Us.

“Now Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams are one and the same; God has told to Pharaoh what He is about to do. “The seven good cows are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one and the same. “The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven thin ears scorched by the east wind will be seven years of famine. “It is as I have spoken to Pharaoh: God has shown to Pharaoh what He is about to do. “Behold, seven years of great abundance are coming in all the land of Egypt; and after them seven years of famine will come, and all the abundance will be forgotten in the land of Egypt, and the famine will ravage the land. “So the abundance will be unknown in the land because of that subsequent famine; for it will be very severe. “Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it

about. “Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:25–33)

The famine was going to affect everyone. No one would be exempt. Pharaoh, King of Egypt, would be impacted like the lowest servant. Sometimes disasters strike and impact large segments of population. Most of the time life happens that impacts individuals and families. The reality is all of us will have bad stuff happen to us when we least expect it. These financial storms can come quick and last a long time. They can be mild or very severe. Not having adequate financial reserves will make it double debilitating. Choose to be wise like Joseph and prepare for a rainy day.

Bad stuff that happens every day all around us:

- Car breaks down
- Unexpected injury or illness
- Divorce or separation.
- A child goes off to college
- Company downsizes and lays you off or cuts your salary
- Gas prices and other prices go up cutting into your funds to live on
- House repair or appliance breaks down
- Root canal, crown, braces, etc.

2. A Wise Person Prepares for the Bad Stuff.

A. Start Preparing Now.

“Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land, and let him exact a fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt in the seven years of abundance. “Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh’s authority, and let them guard it. “Let the food become as a reserve for the land for the seven years of famine which will occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land will not perish during the famine.””

(Genesis 41:34–36)



Even though the famine was 7 years away, Joseph knew it would take that long to save the reserves that would sustain the nation and others. Likewise, we must start today. If you don't have the \$1,000 emergency fund, sell something, cut expenses, find something that can help you earn a little extra cash. Without a reserve, your reflex reaction will be to go deeper into debt creating even more anxiety.

Dave Ramsey's 7 Baby Steps to Financial Peace

- 1) Emergency Fund of \$1,000 or \$1,500
- 2) Pay off debt using the debt snowball method
- 3) Save 3-6 months living expenses for major emergencies
- 4) Invest at least 15% into retirement
- 5) Start saving for college
- 6) Pay off your home
- 7) Build wealth and give generously

B. Be Consistent as well as Persistent.

“Now Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven years of plenty the land brought forth abundantly. So he gathered all the food of these seven years which occurred in the land of Egypt and placed the food in the cities; he placed in every city the food from its own surrounding fields. Thus Joseph stored up grain in great abundance like the sand of the sea, until he stopped measuring it, for it was beyond measure.” (Genesis 41:46–49)

Joseph collected 20% from the people for 7 years. The reserves got so large that it seemed as the sand of the sea. They had so much that they stopped measuring it for it was beyond measure.

C. Guard against the temptation to spend impulsively.

“Then let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and store up the grain for food in the cities under Pharaoh's authority, and let them guard it.” (Genesis 41:35)



Remember your saving objectives. Depleting your reserves today will impact you sometime in the future. Be rigorous in protecting your reserves for genuine emergencies and planned purchases.

D. Be Wise and Generous with Your Reserves, Genesis 41:53-57.

“When the seven years of plenty which had been in the land of Egypt came to an end, and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said, then there was famine in all the lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried out to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, you shall do.” When the famine was spread over all the face of the earth, then Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians; and the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. The people of all the earth came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the earth.” (Genesis 41:53–57)

My Response:

- I have been saved by the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Give generously: I am giving my tithe to the Lord.
- Save Wisely:
 - I am working on or have saved a \$1,000 for an emergency fund.
 - I am rigorously paying off debt using the debt snowball.
 - I have or am working on setting aside 3-6 months living expenses for major emergencies and/or planned purchases.
 - I am investing at least 15% into my retirement.
 - I am saving for my children’s college.
 - I am working toward paying off my mortgage.
 - I am building wealth to be more generous.

