

Valerie L. Myers, Ph.D.

Joseph's Calling to Leadership

Truly what is here preached is not simply a means of making one's way in the world, but a peculiar ethic. The infraction of its rules is treated not as foolishness but as forgetfulness of duty. That is the essence of the matter. It is not mere business astuteness, that sort of thing is common enough, it is an ethos. This is the quality which interests us.

—Max Weber on the concept of “a calling” in *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. 1904/1992, p. 51.

At the height of his career, Joseph could hardly believe his life—and neither could his siblings. While separated from his family and working abroad, Joseph married, had children, became bi-cultural, and ascended to the pinnacle of leadership. Joseph's economic policies steered a nation through economic surplus, crisis, and recovery, earning him remarkable respect, despite being different. Personally, Joseph expanded his interests, remained true to his values, and surpassed his most audacious dreams—despite a difficult youth.

Joseph was a big-mouth little brother who dodged dirty work, was victimized by gang violence, and buried his mother while he was a teenager. That was all a distant memory now. So much had changed since Joseph and his brothers were kids—or had it? When the family reunited after 22 years, past hurts and deception seemed to disappear. In reality, they avoided mentioning old offenses. The family viewed Joseph with a mix of awe and incredulity that he'd fulfilled seemingly impossible dreams. Joseph's stratospheric status further strained tense relationships within his big, fragmented family. But none were aware of his tumultuous journey.

Upon hearing their dying father's last words, smoldering sibling rivalries reignited. Conspiring resumed after the funeral. Joseph tried to suspend judgment but feared that the family would devolve into factions once again. But there was a family business to consider. Joseph now faced a different calling to leadership.

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