

# What Is Really Important?

(Genesis 47)

I. There Is Only A Step  
Between Riches And Ruin, 13

# Four causes of poverty in Bible –

1. **Calamity:** includes widows, orphans ... and Egyptian famines.
2. **Oppression:** as Israel in Egypt, Ex.1-2.
3. **Slothfulness:** Prov.26:15.
4. **Spiritual sacrifice.** 2 Co.8:9; 2 Co.11:27; Ph.4:11.

13: very severe

15: die. (1 Sm.20:3)

**Languished:** weak, lacking vitality, wasting away

Seven years of plenty can deceive

- Take food for granted.
- Seven full years was temporary.
- Beware where we put our trust.

# Four rich men

- Lk.12:16-21
- Lk.16:19-31
- Lk.18:18-23
- Lk.23:50-54 (Mt.27:57)

1. Possess goods now.
2. Soon will lose all.
3. Must prepare for it.
4. Must use what have now.

Same facts as others, but succeeded.

More concerned about kingdom of God than holding to earthly possessions.

I. There Is Only A Step Between Riches And Ruin

II. The Famine Was  
Not Their Fault, 13

Can't control weather, stop a famine,  
drought, depression, market crash . . .

Why didn't Egyptians save for seven years?

Lk.13:1-5

▶ People think they control universe...

Ja.1:17 . . . 4:13-17

We will... All we have is the present.

City... We don't know future. Lk.10:30

Year... Same mistake as rich fool.

Profit... Prov.27:1

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II. Egyptian Famine Was Not Their Fault

**III. Egyptians Learned  
True Values, 15**



# 14-15, rationing

15-17: money ran out; parted with animals

18-19: finally left with bodies (freedom) / land

◇ 1 Co.7:29-31

- **Basic premise:** life is short

- **Purpose (result):** from now on . . .

  - Temporary things cannot dominate life

- **Reason:** world in present form is passing

◇ 1 Tim.6:6-10, we need but little here below

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II. Egyptian Famine Was Not Their Fault

III. Egyptians Learned True Values

**IV. Instead Of Complaining,  
Egyptians Gave Thanks, 25**

We can replace some items...

Philippians

Jail doesn't matter to one who is right  
with God

Phil.4:11-13

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**V. They Work ... But Confess  
Salvation By Grace, 25**

# Ro.3:24

Justified freely by His grace . . . does not contradict Ro.6:4

Ja.2:21, 24-25

Titus 2:11-12, grace teaches...

Ph.4:12-13

“He who prepares for this life and takes no thought of eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever”