

Preparing for Elevation

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

To elevate means to lift (something) up.

To elevate means to increase the level of (something).

To elevate means to make (something) higher.

To elevate means to raise (someone) to a higher rank or level.

Before elevation, there is a season of preparation.

I

Preparation is evidence we have faith that something is getting ready to happen (vs. 3-4).

Preparation involves learning as much as we can about what we want to do or become.

Proverbs 18:15 (MSG) says, “Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.

Preparation involves seeking guidance from those we admire.

Proverbs 1:5 (NKJV) says, “A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel”

Preparation involves setting goals and planning strategies.

Proverbs 21:5 says, “Careful planning puts you ahead in the long run; hurry and scurry puts you further behind.

II

Preparing for elevation can be a lengthy process (v. 5).

Joseph was 17 when he had a dream of elevation, but he was 30 when the dream was fulfilled.

Genesis 37:2, and Genesis 41:46

Moses was 40 when God called him to deliver the children of Israel, but he was 80 when they were actually delivered.

Exodus 2:11/Acts 7:23, and Exodus 7:7

David waited 15 years between being anointed as king and actually being elevated to king.

1 Samuel 16:11-13, and 2 Samuel 2:4, 2 Samuel 5:3

Because of the lengthy process, some get tired and:

- A) Begin reasoning in their mind and creating conspiracies.
- B) Begin searching for shortcuts.
- C) Quit preparing altogether.

III

The unprepared miss out, while the prepared are elevated (vs. 10-11).

Preparation qualifies us for elevation.

Preparation keeps us from having regrets about what could have been.

Ultimately, elevation happens when preparation meets opportunity.

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