

Preparing A Business Plan Of Action

Planning for the future is biblical. Proverbs 24:3-6 states, “Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts.”

Joseph Prepared A Plan

God had a plan for Joseph’s life. Joseph did not question his journey, but faithfully followed God into whatever was prepared for his life. When Joseph planned, he set out a visionary strategy for Egypt (and by extension the rest of the world) and saved its citizens from starvation.

In Genesis 41:33–36, Joseph interpreted a dream Pharaoh had and gave him advice on how to proceed based upon the information given in the interpretation. As businesspeople, we need godly wisdom and human understanding to properly guide our businesses into the future.

In Genesis 41:37–57, Joseph was selected and ordained by Pharaoh to become the ruler over his household and then over all the people of Egypt. When the famine started, people from many other countries bought their grain from Egypt.

Joseph told the people of Egypt to prepare. During the years of surplus, Joseph was wise enough to gather the excess and store it for later use. He was a great model of advance preparation. The preparation of the Egyptians supplied for their needs during the years of lack.

Genesis 41:48–49

Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.

Once the plan was made, Joseph and the people of Egypt stuck to it and were not deterred by their surroundings. Had they not been extremely diligent in setting aside 20 percent of their intake, they never would have survived the seven lean years, nor would they have been able to help feed the nations around them. Good planning and advance

preparation will help you accommodate your business and give it strategic insight into the future. A wise business owner or manager will not allow a company to use all of its cash flow for short-term gain. He or she will always set aside a percentage for future needs and growth. Good cash flow planning will help the business survive all economic cycles, both good and bad.

Joseph Prepared And Planned In This Manner:

- Placed one-fifth of all the harvested grain in storage buildings
- Delegated specific tasks to workers
- Planned ways to stimulate the people to believe that bad economic times were coming even though it appeared that all would be well forever
- Instructed others on how much grain to store
- Planned out and built the buildings to be used as storehouses
- Motivated the people to follow his plan
- Inspired Pharaoh to believe in his preparation and plan

Here Is What We Can Learn About Preparation From Joseph:

- We need divine revelation from God about our future.
- We need wisdom to carry out our strategic plans.
- It is important to stick to the plan even when appearances seem to contradict it.
- A good planner must be very deliberate, calculating, discerning, and prudent.
- A good planner must be wise (Genesis 41:39).
- We must prepare for the bad times, even when all we presently see is good.
- We must think ahead (Genesis 41:33–36).

Here is a biblical story of a man about to lose his job, planning ahead for his future well-being even though he does so in an unscrupulous way:

Luke 16:1–8

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome

me into their houses.’ So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’ Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.”

Sensible people look ahead and plan for the future. They manage money to provide benefit for the present, as well as the future. Christ is saying that in doing good works, we should consider our future with just as much ingenuity as the dishonest steward considered his. As stewards of Jesus Christ, we are mandated to use every means at our disposal to spread the Good News to all. In doing so, our gains will have great effect in eternal matters.

The shrewdness with which the unjust servant negated his responsibility to his lord was commended. He promoted his cause with the utmost care and effort. With an unprincipled passion, he sought to use his master’s money in securing an advantage after his inevitable dismissal. Christ was simply asking those to whom He spoke to be just as inventive, but for a better cause. This can happen only when we look down the line a bit and seek to plan ahead. The message is clear: In our stewardship responsibility to God, we should be at least as wholehearted and energetic as the misguided steward was in protecting his own interests.