

THE SAYINGS OF JOSEPH

History's Greatest Teacher!

MICHAEL HEWITT-GLEESON

ON THE NEW FASTBOOK, SAYINGS OF JOSEPH ...

W. BRIND ZICHY-WOINARSKI Q.C.,

‘IT GAVE ME MUCH PLEASURE TO READ IT AND BROUGHT BACK SOME OF MY FATHER’S SAYINGS AND MADE ME REMEMBER JUST HOW MUCH HE TAUGHT ME.’

SIR GUS NOSSAL AC FRS, CHAIRMAN OF THE GATES FOUNDATION’S DISCOVERY EXPERT GROUP.
‘FULL OF WISDOM AS USUAL.’

ANDREW BASSAT, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF SEEK.
‘INTERESTING READ. AND SOUNDS LIKE YOU WERE WELL TAUGHT BY YOUR FATHER!’

PROFESSOR DAVID PENINGTON AC, FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.
‘A WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF SAYINGS, AND A SPLENDID INSIGHT INTO JESUS’ FATHER. IT RINGS TRUE.’

NOEL TURNBULL, ADJUNCT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF MEDIA, RMIT UNIVERSITY.
‘REMINDER THAT CHURCHES MIGHT BE WELL-SERVED FOLLOWING THOSE AXIOMS.’

PROFESSOR GERMAN SPANGENBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AGRIBIO VICTORIA.
‘GREAT READING! MADE MY DAY! WONDERFUL THOUGHTS TO REFLECT UPON ON FATHERS’ DAY.’

THE
SAYINGS
OF
JOSEPH

HISTORY'S GREATEST TEACHER!

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MICHAEL HEWITT-GLEESON

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**“AT THAT TIME,
THERE WAS A SMALL
BUSINESS IN NAZARETH IN
THE LOWER GALILEE
CALLED, JOSEPH AND SON.**

**JOSEPH WAS A TEKTON -
GREEK FOR AN ARTISAN,
CARPENTER, WOOD-WORKER,
BUILDER, TEACHER OR
ENGINEER -
AND HIS SON, JESUS,
WAS HIS APPRENTICE.**

**THEY WORKED TOGETHER
FOR LOCAL CUSTOMERS
AND ALSO ON MAJOR
PROJECTS LIKE THE
RESTORATION OF THE
TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM.**

**JOSEPH WAS JESUS'
FATHER, HIS BOSS
AND HIS TEACHER.”**

PART ONE

**WHO TEACHES
THE TEACHER?**

**TODAY IS FATHERS DAY
2015. I'M IN MELBOURNE
AND IN A GRATEFUL AND
REFLECTIVE MOOD.**

**I ONCE WROTE IN AN
EARLIER BOOK:**

**“I AM AN AUTHOR AND A
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.
I AM ALSO A SCIENTIST.
THE TWO MAIN FEATURES
ASSOCIATED WITH THIS
KIND OF JOB ARE
TEACHING AND TRAVEL ...**

PAGE TWO

**“AS YOU WOULD EXPECT,
MY NICHE MARKET
HAS CONSISTED OF
ASPIRATIONAL THINKERS.**

**THOSE MIDDLE-CLASS
PEOPLE WHO DESIRE
A BETTER LIFE AND WHO
WANT BETTER THINGS,
ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO
ARE ABLE TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**

**“I’VE TAUGHT PARENTS,
EDUCATORS, SCIENTISTS,
EMPLOYEES,
ENTREPRENEURS, CEOs,
PREACHERS, POLITICIANS,
ARTISTS AND ELITE
SPORTSPEOPLE.**

**THE REASON ASPIRATIONAL
THINKERS REQUIRE
MOTIVATION IS BECAUSE
THEY KNOW THEY CAN
DO BETTER, THEY WANT TO
DO BETTER AND SO
THEY SEEK OUT TEACHERS
WHO MIGHT BE ABLE
TO SHOW THEM
A BETTER WAY.”**

PAGE FOUR

**BUT, WHO TEACHES
THE TEACHER?**

PAGE FIVE

FROM MY OWN
EXPERIENCE, EVERY
TEACHER SITS ON THE
SHOULDERS OF ANOTHER
TEACHER AND, IN MY CASE,
THAT TEACHER WAS MY
FATHER, MARTIN JOSEPH
PETER HEWITT-GLEESON,
WHO WAS ONE OF THE
WISEST PEOPLE I HAVE
EVER KNOWN.



PAGE SIX

**DAD HAD A GREAT DEAL OF
LIFE EXPERIENCE.**

**AT 19 HE ENLISTED IN THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY TO
SERVE IN WWII.**

**HE SURVIVED IN TWO
THEATRES OF WAR,
IN THE MIDDLE EAST
AND IN NEW GUINEA.**

**BEFORE THE WAR
HE WON SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR A CLASSICAL
EDUCATION AT
ST KEVIN'S IN TOORAK.**

HE WAS A BIBLIOPHILE.

**HE READ EVERYTHING
FROM MARCUS AURELIUS
TO PATRICK WHITE, AND
HAD A GREAT DEAL OF
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE AND
COMMON SENSE.**

HE HAD A NATURAL
NOBLESSE OBLIGE
WHICH I BELIEVE HE GOT
FROM HIS MOTHER AND
WAS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS
SPONTANEOUS
GENEROSITY, HIS
CHEERFUL DEMEANOUR
AND LIVELY
SENSE OF HUMOUR.

PAGE TEN

HE WAS ALSO VERY LUCKY.

**HE SURVIVED BOWEL
CANCER, COMPLETELY
CURED, AND OTHER
NARROW ESCAPES.**

**HE LIVED A GOOD LIFE
FOR 84 YEARS.**

**DAD WAS A CLEVER
SURVIVOR.**

**THROUGH A GREAT
DEPRESSION AND A WORLD
WAR AND HE WAS A
LIFELONG CHRONIC
ASTHMATIC.**

PAGE TWELVE

**SURVIVAL IS CLEVER AND
REQUIRES INTELLIGENCE.**

**LONG TERM SURVIVAL
ENDOWS WISDOM AND
THIS IS A VERY CLEVER
THING, INDEED.**

**FROM THE HARD-WON
ACCOMPLISHMENT OF
LONGEVITY EMERGES
BROAD EXPERIENCE AND
SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE.**

PAGE THIRTEEN

**WISDOM CANNOT BE
TAUGHT.**

**WISDOM ALSO OFFERS A
DEEP APPRECIATION OF
THE ROLE THAT SHEER
RANDOM LUCK PLAYS IN
LONG TERM SURVIVAL.**

**THE EXPERIENCE OF
SURVIVING FOR A
COMPLETE GENERATION
THROUGH CHILDHOOD,
ADOLESCENCE AND
ADULTHOOD ENDOWS
KNOWLEDGE AND
PERSPECTIVE THAT A
YOUNG BRAIN SIMPLY
CANNOT MATCH.**

TO ACHIEVE 50 YEARS OF SURVIVAL, THROUGH TWO OR MORE GENERATIONS, ALLOWS THE BRAIN TO BUILD A DATABASE OF EXPERIENCE WHICH OFFERS A PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY, AN UNDERSTANDING OF LONG TERM CONSEQUENCES, A FACULTY FOR PREDICTION AND A WISDOM THAT CANNOT BE ACQUIRED IN ANY OTHER WAY.

IT TAKES HALF A CENTURY.

PAGE SEVENTEEN

**YES, DAD WAS WISE BUT
HE WAS FOREVER
A LOT OF FUN.**

**HE USED TO ALWAYS SAY,
“NOBODY’S PERFECT!”.**

PAGE EIGHTEEN

MY DAD ALSO TAUGHT ME
A LOT OF OTHER THINGS
AND, LIKE ANYBODY'S DAD,
HE HAD HIS
'FAMOUS SAYINGS'.

SAYINGS WHICH HE
REPEATED MANY TIMES
AND WHICH I NOW FIND
MYSELF REPEATING, TOO.

HERE FOLLOWS TEN OF MY
DAD'S 'FAMOUS SAYINGS'
WHICH I CAN, OF COURSE,
REPEAT VERBATIM:

PAGE NINETEEN

**“LIFE IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN WORK.
WORK IS ONLY URGENT.”**

PAGE TWENTY

**“WHEN YOU’RE NOT SURE
WHAT TO DO, SON, JUST
GO TO THE BEACH!”**

PAGE TWENTY-ONE

**“THE BEST TRICK IS:
THERE IS NO TRICK.”**

**“MIND YOUR OWN
BUSINESS AND IF YOU DO
THAT YOU’LL BE SO BUSY
YOU WON’T HAVE TIME TO
MIND THE BUSINESS OF
ANYONE ELSE.”**

PAGE TWENTY-THREE

**“SAY SOMETHING NICE
OR DON’T SAY ANYTHING
AT ALL.”**

**“USE YOUR HEAD.
IT’S THE LITTLE THINGS
THAT COUNT.”**

**“THINGS ARE RARELY
WHAT THEY SEEM AT FIRST
SIGHT. THERE’S ALWAYS
A MUCH BETTER WAY OF
LOOKING AT THINGS.”**

**“MAKE IT FUN
AND YOU’RE MORE LIKELY
TO WANT TO DO IT.”**

**“FOR CRISSAKE DON’T
WHINGE. JUST FIX IT
OR FORGET ABOUT IT.”**

PAGE TWENTY-EIGHT

**MY DAD WAS DEFINITELY
NOT A MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER BUT I STILL USE
HIS SAYINGS IN MY OWN
WORK AS A TEACHER.**

**WHY NOT DO A LIST
OF TEN OF YOUR OWN
FATHER'S FAMOUS SAYINGS
THAT ARE WORTH
REPEATING?**

PART TWO

**JOSEPH
AND SON**

I ONCE VISITED NAZARETH
ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO.

I TRIED TO IMAGINE WHAT
IT WAS LIKE WHEN JESUS
LIVED AND WORKED THERE.

IN THE CASE OF JESUS,
IT SEEMS HE ALSO SAT
ON THE SHOULDERS
OF HIS FATHER,
JOSEPH OF NAZARETH.

PAGE THIRTY

**ALTHOUGH I'M A
VACILLATING AGNOSTIC
BELIEVER I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN INTERESTED IN
THE STORY OF JESUS.**

**NOT ONLY FROM
A SPIRITUAL OR AN
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
BUT ALSO FROM
A PROFESSIONAL
POINT OF VIEW.**

**JESUS WAS A
MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER.**

**HE, TOO, WAS A
TEACHER WHO TRAVELED.**

**HIS TARGET AUDIENCE,
TOO, WAS MOSTLY
ASPIRATIONAL THINKERS.**

AT THAT TIME, IN GALILEE,
THERE WERE MANY SUCH
GURUS OR RABBIS OR
TEACHERS.

PAGE THIRTY-THREE

**THERE WERE NO WARRING
TRIBES OF ISRAEL
ANYMORE. THERE WAS A
BRISK TRADE IN BOTH
GOODS AND IDEAS.**

**THERE WAS THE RELATIVE
STABILITY OF
PAX ROMANUM.**

**THERE WAS THE
OCCUPYING ROMAN
MILITARY YIELDING THE
PAYPACKETS OF LEGIONS
OF YOUNG SOLDIERS FULL
OF DENARII TO BE SPENT
ON R&R ALONG THE
PICTURESQUE SEASIDE.**

EMPLOYED WITH THE
CLIENT GOVERNMENT
IN THE CAPITAL
CITY OF TIBERIUS,
THERE WAS ALSO
A LARGE MIDDLE-CLASS
OF PUBLIC SERVANTS
—SCRIBES—
WHO WERE EDUCATED
AND EMPLOYED AND
WHO COULD AFFORD
TO HAVE ASPIRATIONS
OF THEIR OWN.

**THESE MIDDLE-CLASS
BUREAUCRATS LIVED
ALL ALONG THE GALILEAN
SEASIDE IN THE PLEASANT
AND THRIVING TOWNS OF
AMMATHUS, MAGDAL,
GENNESARET AND
CAPERNAUM
ALL RATHER NEATLY
SPACED AT 5K INTERVALS.**

IT SEEMS THE GALILEAN
COASTLINE WAS ENJOYING
A BUSY SCHEDULE OF
MOTIVATIONAL TALKS,
POLITICAL GATHERINGS
AND THE COMPETITIVE
SPREAD OF IDEAS
AND SO JESUS WAS
IN THE RIGHT CAREER
AND AT THE RIGHT TIME.

**BUT HOW DID
JESUS GET STARTED?**

PAGE FORTY

**IN HIS BOOK
JESUS OF NAZARETH
(VOL III),
POPE BENEDICT XVI
WRITES JESUS:
“THOUGHT AND LEARNED
IN HUMAN FASHION”.**

**IN OTHER WORDS,
LIKE ALL CHILDREN,
JESUS LEARNT MOSTLY
FROM HIS PARENTS.**

**THE AUSTRALIAN,
CARDINAL GEORGE PELL,
AGREES:
“PARENTS ARE THE
BEST TEACHERS”.**

**THIS IS ALSO A
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE
OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE:
BRAIN PATTERNS
ARE CONTAGIOUS THROUGH
REPETITION FROM
PARENT TO CHILD.**

**THROUGH OBSERVATION,
REPETITION AND IMITATION,
JESUS' FIRST AND MOST
INFLUENTIAL TEACHERS
WERE HIS PARENTS,
MARY AND JOSEPH
OF NAZARETH.**

**HIS FATHER MUST HAVE
BEEN A VERY WISE
TEACHER BECAUSE
WHEN HE WAS 12
JOSEPH TOOK JESUS
ALONG ON HIS ANNUAL
PASSEOVER VISIT TO THE
TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM.**

**THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
JESUS WAS TESTED
AS A STUDENT AND HE
PASSED WITH HONOURS.**

**AFTER THREE DAYS
SITTING AMONG THE
TEACHERS AND LISTENING
AND ASKING QUESTIONS
JESUS AMAZED THEM ALL
WITH HIS UNDERSTANDING
OF THE LAW
AND HIS ANSWERS
(LUKE 2.47).**

**JOSEPH OF NAZARETH
IS DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE
AS 'A JUST MAN'.**

**HIS TRUE CHARACTER
IS REVEALED TO US WHEN
HE GETS THE NEWS THAT
HIS FIANCÉE IS PREGNANT
ALONG WITH HER
INCREDULOUS STORY
THAT IT WAS GOD'S DOING!**

**WHAT WILL JOSEPH DO?
WILL HE THROW HER OUT?
WILL HE FORGIVE HER?
THIS IS HIS DEFINING
MOMENT OF TRUTH.
THIS IS WHEN HISTORY
WATCHES JOSEPH IN
WONDER AND ADMIRATION.**

**HE WENT ON TO DEDICATE
HIMSELF TO THE
UPBRINGING OF JESUS
WHO LEARNT NOT ONLY
HOW TO TALK AND READ
AND WRITE BUT, AS HIS
SON AND APPRENTICE,
JOSEPH ALSO TAUGHT
JESUS HOW TO THINK
AND SOLVE PROBLEMS AND
TO DESIGN AND INNOVATE
WITH THE USE OF TOOLS.**

ALSO JESUS LEARNED
HOW TO OPERATE,
MAINTAIN AND
GROW A SMALL BUSINESS.

HOW TO BEHAVE AND
WORK AND PLAY
AT THE SIDE OF HIS
FATHER AND MENTOR,
JOSEPH, FOR THE FIRST
FIFTEEN YEARS
OF HIS LIFE.

FROM ALL ACCOUNTS
JOSEPH WAS A WISE DAD,
TOO. AGAIN THE
PRICELESS VALUE OF
A FATHER'S WISDOM.

**WISDOM IS TO SEE
OTHER POINTS OF VIEW.
IT INCLUDES THE SAGACITY
OF PATIENCE TO SEE
BEYOND ONE'S OWN
IMMEDIATE VIEWPOINT AND
THE WISDOM TO SEE
THE VIEWPOINTS
OF OTHERS INVOLVED
IN SITUATIONS:
YOUR PARTNER'S
VIEWPOINT, YOUR
CHILDREN'S, YOUR
CHILDREN'S CHILDREN,
YOUR NEIGHBOUR'S,
YOUR CUSTOMER'S,
YOUR ENEMY'S.**

PAGE FORTY-EIGHT

**WISDOM IS THE ABILITY
TO SEE CONSEQUENCES,
IMMEDIATE, SHORT TERM
AND LONG TERM.**

**IT IS THE ABILITY
TO LOOK BACK
OVER HISTORY AND
TO SEE FORWARD
INTO THE FUTURE.**

**TO UNDERSTAND CYCLES,
PASSAGES OF TIME, THE
PASSING OF FASHIONS,
ERAS, EONS AND THE MANY
POSSIBLE FUTURES
INCLUDING EXTINCTION,
THE POSSIBILITY OF
NO FUTURE AT ALL.**

**THE WISDOM OF JOSEPH
EMERGES FROM THE HARD
WON, LABOUR-INTENSIVE
EXPERIENCE GAINED
FROM HAVING TO SOLVE
LIFE'S WIDE RANGE
OF RANDOM AND
UNEXPECTED PROBLEMS.**

**AND, FROM HAVING
SURVIVED THROUGH
MULTI-CHANGING
ENVIRONMENTS OVER
SEVERAL GENERATIONS
AND FOR AN EXTENDED
PERIOD OF TIME.**

PAGE FIFTY

**THERE ARE NO RECORDS
AT ALL OF THE
SAYINGS OF JOSEPH
AS HE WROTE NOTHING
DOWN.**

**HIS SON JESUS
WAS THE SAME.**

**NEITHER OF THEM
PRODUCED ANY WRITTEN
WORKS AS THEY FAVOURED
THE ORAL TRADITION.**

**SO WE ALL HAVE TO
SPECULATE BASED ON THE
BALANCE OF EVIDENCE
THAT DOES EXIST.**

**JOSEPH, OBVIOUSLY,
WAS NOT A CHRISTIAN
NOR A MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER BUT HIS SAYINGS
WERE TAUGHT TO JESUS
AND PASSED ON BY HIM.**

**NO DOUBT THERE WERE
TIMES WHEN JESUS
PARAPHRASED JOSEPH.
OTHER TIMES WHEN HE
REPEATED HIS DAD'S
WORDS VERBATIM.**

**BECAUSE OF THAT,
HERE'S MY SELECTION
OF TEN OF THE LIKELY
'FAMOUS SAYINGS' OF
JOSEPH OF NAZARETH:**

**"YOU BE MERCIFUL, SON,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
IS MERCIFUL TO YOU."**

**“GIVE TO THE ONE
WHO ASKS YOU.
DO NOT TURN AWAY
THE ONE WHO WANTS TO
BORROW TOOLS FROM US
AND IF ANYONE TAKES
WHAT BELONGS TO US, DO
NOT DEMAND IT BACK.”**

**“ONCE UPON A TIME A MAN
WAS GOING FROM
JERUSALEM TO JERICHO
WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED
BY ROBBERS. THEY
STRIPPED HIM OF HIS
CLOTHES, BEAT HIM AND
LEFT HIM HALF DEAD. A
PRIEST HAPPENED TO BE
GOING DOWN THE SAME
ROAD AND WHEN HE SAW
THE VICTIM HE PASSED BY
ON THE OTHER SIDE.
LATER, A LEVITE, WHEN HE
CAME TO THE SAME PLACE,
SAW HIM AND PASSED BY.**

“BUT A SAMARITAN, ON SEEING THE INJURED MAN IMMEDIATELY TOOK PITY ON HIM. HE WENT AND BANDAGED HIS WOUNDS WITH OIL AND GAVE HIM WINE. THEN HE PUT THE MAN ON HIS OWN DONKEY AND TOOK HIM TO AN INN AND PROVIDED CARE FOR HIM. THE NEXT DAY HE GAVE TWO DENARII TO THE INNKEEPER SAYING, ‘LOOK AFTER THIS MAN AND WHEN I RETURN FROM MY TRIP, I WILL REIMBURSE YOU FOR ANY EXTRA EXPENSE YOU MAY HAVE’.”

**“LOVE YOUR ENEMIES,
DO GOOD TO
THOSE WHO HATE YOU,
BLESS THOSE
WHO CURSE YOU,
PRAY FOR THOSE
WHO MISTREAT YOU.”**

**“GIVE BACK TO CAESAR
WHAT IS CAESAR’S
AND TO GOD
WHAT IS GOD’S.”**

PAGE FIFTY-EIGHT

**“GIVE TO EVERYONE
WHO ASKS OF YOU AND
IF SOMEONE SLAPS YOU
ON ONE CHEEK THEN
TURN TO THEM THE OTHER.
IF SOMEONE TAKES YOUR
COAT THEN OFFER THEM
YOUR SHIRT.”**

**“DO TO OTHERS
AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM
DO TO YOU.”**

**“IF YOU ONLY LOVE THOSE
WHO LOVE YOU, WHAT
CREDIT IS THAT TO
YOU? EVEN SINNERS LOVE
THOSE WHO LOVE THEM.
AND IF YOU ONLY DO GOOD
TO THOSE WHO ARE GOOD
TO YOU, WHAT CREDIT IS
THAT TO YOU?
EVEN SINNERS DO THAT.
AND IF YOU ONLY LEND
TO THOSE FROM WHOM YOU
EXPECT REPAYMENT, WHAT
CREDIT IS THAT TO
YOU? EVEN SINNERS LEND
TO SINNERS, EXPECTING
TO BE REPAIRED IN FULL**

**“BUT LOVE YOUR ENEMIES,
DO GOOD TO THEM,
AND LEND TO THEM
WITHOUT EXPECTING
TO GET ANYTHING BACK.
THEN YOUR REWARD
WILL BE GREAT,
AND YOU WILL BE A CHILD
OF THE MOST HIGH,
BECAUSE HE ALSO IS
KIND TO THE UNGRATEFUL
AND THE WICKED.”**

**“REMEMBER ALWAYS TO BE
LIKE A LITTLE KID.”**

**“IF YOU WANT TO LEARN
PUBLIC SPEAKING,
REMEMBER,
NO-ONE IS GREATER THAN
YOUR COUSIN, JOHN.”**

AS WE ALL KNOW,
JESUS WENT ON
TO BECOME ONE OF THE
MOST FAMOUS TEACHERS
AND PUBLIC SPEAKERS IN
ALL OF WESTERN HISTORY.

HIS SAYINGS ARE GOSPEL.

THEY ARE REPEATED
AGAIN AND AGAIN DOWN
THROUGH THE CENTURIES.

AT THE END OF THE DAY,
HE TURNED OUT TO BE
A GREAT CREDIT TO HIS
FATHER AND TEACHER,
JOSEPH OF NAZARETH.



ICON IN THE CHURCH OF SAINT JOSEPH IN NAZARETH CITY

THE AUTHOR

MICHAEL IS AN AUSTRALIAN GENTLEMAN, VIETNAM VETERAN AND INTELLECTUAL PHILANTHROPIST. HE IS A WORLD AUTHORITY ON LATERAL THINKING.
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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA
2015

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PURPOSEFULLY DESIGNED
TO BE READ ON YOUR SMARTPHONE.
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