

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Forty One

Joseph's New Position

Lesson Verse: 1Peter 5:6

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Joseph is living proof that doing things faithfully, God's way, pays off!
- B. Faith does not know when, or how – only that Romans 8:28 WILL be true!
- C. And Joseph sees what his own brothers can't see – that God allows everything in our lives for a really good purpose!

II. Lesson

A. _____ Long Years (41:1)

1. Probably the longest years of his life
2. When he had little hope, time flew
3. But as Joseph expected to be brought out of the prison at any time, the minutes took forever to pass
4. Here, Joseph learns that God makes everything beautiful still, only in HIS time (Eccl 3:10), not when we are expecting it!

B. Pharaoh's _____ (41:1-7)

1. Everyone dreams
2. God does speak through dreams
3. Especially to those in authority
 - a. Pharaoh here
 - b. Nebuchadnezzar
 - c. Joseph
 - d. Joseph the husband of Mary
4. The specifics of the first dream
 - a. Pharaoh is allowed to stand and be a part of his won dream as he stands by the Nile river
 - b. He sees 7 fat cows (kine) who come out of the river and feed in the meadow
 - c. He then sees 7 very sickly cattle come up out of the same river, and they eat all the 7 fat cows
 - d. Pharaoh wakes up suddenly
5. Pharaoh's second dream
 - a. This time the specifics are related to corn
 - b. 7 good stalks
 - c. 7 famished stalks
 - d. The 7 famished stalks ate up the 7 good ears!
 - e. And Pharaoh wakes up again suddenly

C. Seeking for a Meaning (41:8)

1. Pharaoh needs to know what these dreams mean
2. Obviously he knows they are not a jumble of pictures, and events, but something special
3. Pharaoh sought for the spiritual meaning in his life

D. _____ Joseph (41:9-13)

1. The chief butler realises how he has let down Joseph, and that Joseph should easily be able to interpret the dream
2. How long does it take for us to remember what God has done for us, or called us to do?

E. Joseph's Audience with Pharaoh (41:14-36)

1. Dressing for the king – could not come as a prisoner, but as someone who is important
2. Joseph had a good reputation
 - a. _____ (14-16a) - A rare man indeed!

- 1) Knew what he was - didn't try and live a lie. He had to shave and bathe just like everyone else. He was a sinner, who had simply trusted a Lamb - saved by grace (Eph 2:8,9), and that's the greatest thing to be! Amen!
 - 2) Would not allow someone to attribute something to him that was never there - never sought glory (Pr 27:2; Gal 6:14)
- b. _____ (16b)
- 1) He knows that God can do it - has experienced it himself, time and time again - put the promises of God to the test, and stretched his faith
 - 2) He puts God's honour at stake:
 - a) Because here is an opportunity for God to reveal Himself to an unsaved man through Joseph - you can trust the same through you too!
 - b) Because Joseph knows that all of Egypt is at that very moment open to accepting the God of Abraham over their idols - an open door
 - c) It is worth the risk - and is no real risk at all! Why? Because God cannot fail!
- c. _____ (17-24)
- 1) Doesn't rush to interrupt Pharaoh while speaking (Pr 18:13)
 - 2) Pays attention to detail! He listens well enough to answer everything Pharaoh dreamed about, not just the 'gist' of it - this is my problem, and probably yours too! Joseph probably knew more about the situation than Pharaoh did himself - any Bible believer is miles ahead of the crowd because they learned about human nature, and trouble from the Book! But he listens anyway - patience (2 Tim 2:23-26)
- d. _____ (25-32) Not self-confident, which is sin and against the Lord
- 1) *Confident in God's revelation to him* (the Bible vs 25 - are you confident this Book works?) - pray for wisdom (James 1:5), and then declare it!
 - 2) *Confident in what he had to say*. Knows when to speak, and when NOT to speak. Now was the time to speak. Knows what he says is what is needed!
 - 3) Basic principle of soul-winning: Depend upon God, then Listen, and the Speak of Christ, knowing what you are talking about!
 - 4) *Confident in future things* - the true Christian who spends any time in this Book will know the future better than ANY tarot card reader, or economic forecaster, or magician!
 - 5) *Confident in his recommendations as we shall see* - he came to know just what had to be done. Joseph did not just figure out the dream's meaning, but also, how to deal with it - hardest part!!!
 - 6) It sure would be great to be at this place in our maturity - fully convinced
- e. _____ (33-36)
- 1) *In his attitude* - not believing that he was the answer to Pharaoh's need. No reference to himself at all. As a matter of fact, he realized that it would require lots of helpers
 - 2) *In his ending* - Joseph left it in Pharaoh's hand. Joseph did not take matters into his own hands, but rather realized that God works through authorities, and therefore Joseph should wait.
- f. _____ (37,38) - This is what they really take note of!
- 1) This man is not self-driven, or self-centred. He is Holy Spirit filled, led, and blessed! **And it shows!** And it always will (Ex 34:29,30)
 - 2) Compare with Acts 4:13
- g. _____ (39-45) - Trustworthy! Pr 20:6; 28:20
- 1) Pharaoh realized that this was the kind of man that he could trust with heading up such an important task as preserving life in a world wide famine!
 - 2) Pharaoh easily relinquished some of his authority so that such a man as Joseph could be used of God to meet the need of that hour! Such is still true today, that people will gladly yield to the Gospel when they encounter the person that has some REAL answers!

F. **Joseph's _____** (41:37-44)

1. Based upon the Spirit of God being in him
2. Pharaoh wants to be protected and led right – even leaders need to count on people – had to act by faith here, and does!
3. Subjects everything in the kingdom under Joseph
4. Only in the Throne was Pharaoh greater – could over-rule anything Joseph said or commanded
5. Pharaoh here is fulfilling a type of God the Father
6. Officially promotes him
 - a. The king's ring
 - b. Fine linen
 - c. Gold chain around his neck
 - d. Riding in the second chariot behind Pharaoh
 - e. Called upon all people to bow the knee before Joseph

G. **Joseph's _____** (41:45)

1. Joseph was lonely for all those years
2. Lonely for his family
3. No hope of a family of his own
4. Yet now, in one quick day,
 - a. Joseph has been promoted to the second most powerful person in the world,
 - b. He has been given a new name: Zaphnathpaaneah which means, “the giver of life” or “the Saviour of the world”
 - c. And given the most beautiful woman in the world to marry, Asenath! Her daddy was of the priest class which meant they owned much of the land of Egypt.

H. **The Seven years of _____** (41:46-49)

1. Joseph is 30 years old when he begins his life calling (he has been in Egypt now for 13 years)!
2. Same as Jesus (Lk 3:23)
3. He begins his census of cops, and figures where to store them in very large quantities –
4. Notice that Joseph knew that good times do not last, and so carefully stores away a lot of the abundance for the bad times that invariably follow

I. **Joseph Has a Family** (41:50)

1. Two sons.
2. Manasseh – means, To Forget
3. Ephraim – means, To be Fruitful
4. He looks upon his future as good, and does not hold on to _____ of the past (Philp 3:13,14)

J. **The Seven years of _____** (41:53-57)

1. Abruptly, the seven years of plenty ended
2. Dearth is another word for disaster, or famine
3. All the lands surrounding Egypt were hit by the famine
4. But, because of Joseph, there was food in Egypt
5. Notice that just at the beginning of the famine, people were starving – why?
 - a. Because they themselves did not store up anything
 - b. They had lived like there was no tomorrow to worry about
 - c. Their appetites were larger than they should have been, and so were used to large amounts of food, which they now began to greatly miss!
6. When Pharaoh was sought to for answers, Pharaoh simply said, Look to Joseph! WHAT A GREAT STATEMENT! Look to Jesus (Heb 12:2)

K. **_____ for God's Purpose** (41:57)

1. All of this was to make it so that Joseph's brothers would have to come down to Egypt, to meet their long lost brother, and bow before him, like his dream said they would!
2. God will move mountains to bring to pass what he has designed for you to have

III. Conclusion