

## Genesis 40-41 – Joseph Interprets Dreams

### *God's Word Transcends Our Circumstances*

#### Section1: 40:1-8 – Seeking God will bring us closer to God

*<sup>8</sup> “We had dreams,” they said to him, “but there is no one to interpret them.” Then Joseph said to them, “Don’t interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.”*

Two things to take notice of: (1) Joseph was faithfully serving the Lord and (2) Joseph recognized that God is the one who works in man’s life.

- (1) Wherever Joseph found himself, he sought to serve the Lord.
- (2) Joseph always pointed others to God. God was the interpreter of dreams. God was the one working behind the scenes. God was the one blessing his life.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Are you consistently seeking ways to glorify God in your day-to-day life?
- ❖ What does it look like to glorify God in your day-to-day life?
- ❖ Do you thank God and give God all the credit for any good in your life?

#### Section 2: 40:9-22 – God’s Word always comes to pass and God is better.

Cupbearer and chief baker have dreams.

*<sup>20</sup> On the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, he gave a feast for all his servants. He elevated the chief cupbearer and the chief baker among his servants. <sup>21</sup> Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his position as cupbearer, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand. <sup>22</sup> But Pharaoh hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had explained to them. <sup>23</sup> Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

Two general observations: (1) the interpretations from God were exactly right. (2) Again, Joseph is forgotten.

- (1) Often, we can be tempted to doubt God’s Word, question God’s Word or even ignore God’s Word? Here we see that God speaks clearly and correctly through Joseph. As we have mentioned earlier Joseph is a type of Christ. Therefore, as much as God spoke through Joseph...God speaks ALL the more through Jesus. Hebrews 1:1-4.
- (2) Joseph’s faithfulness to God and His Word...seems to be forgotten. If you do right in order to be recognized and praised...you will have many moments of disappointment and frustration. Think about it, how often have you done a “good deed” that when unrecognized? We must find ourselves living for the glory of God rather than the glory of man. Galatians 1:10. 1 John 2:15-17. Philippians 3:7-11.

Are we willing to give up the world for Christ? Are we willing to give up everything to know Christ more deeply?

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that God has clearly spoken and revealed Himself through Jesus?
- ❖ Have you ever felt forgotten by God...how did you respond? How should we respond?
- ❖ What role does patience play in our forsaking the world to follow Jesus?

### Section 3: 41:(recap) 1-7 (read) 8-16 – God is ALL Wisdom for Life and Living

Pharaoh has a dream.

<sup>16</sup> *"I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."*

Joseph had two temptations in this moment: (1) anger and (2) pride.

- (1) The cupbearer had forgotten his promise to Joseph. Joseph could have allowed his anger to overwhelm him and take him down a very different path. Proverbs 29:11 (CSB): *A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise person holds it in check.* Self-control is of utmost importance in navigating a broken, corrupt world. So much so, that self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Think about that, self-control is so valuable to a believer that the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of self-control when we walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23.
- (2) Another temptation Joseph is faced with in this moment is pride. Pride is a temptation that often arises in our lives and Joseph is no different. Joseph could have easily taken credit for God's work. No one would have noticed. Yet, Joseph states that God is the source of the interpretation. How often are we tempted to take credit? To puff ourselves up? To believe that our goodness is our own doing? Isaiah 64:6. Isaiah 55:8-9.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why should we learn to control our anger?
- ❖ How do we rely on God to help us control our anger?
- ❖ How does pride destroy relationships?
- ❖ How do we biblically battle pride?

### Section 4: 41:(recap) 17-36 (read) 37-41, 50-57 – God Provides

Joseph explains Pharaoh's dream.

<sup>37</sup> *The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants, <sup>38</sup> and he said to them, "Can we find anyone like this, a man who has God's spirit in him?" <sup>39</sup> So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are."*

<sup>55</sup> *When the whole land of Egypt was stricken with famine, the people cried out to Pharaoh for food. Pharaoh told all Egypt, "Go to Joseph and do whatever he tells you." <sup>56</sup> Now the famine had spread across the whole region, so Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. <sup>57</sup> Every land came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, for the famine was severe in every land.*

Pharaoh recognized two things about Joseph: (1) God's spirit was on Joseph and (2) Joseph's wisdom came from God.

- (1) How we live our day-to-day lives reveal a lot about us. Wherever we find ourselves and in whatever circumstance we find ourselves, walking in the Spirit should describe us.
- (2) Also, as we live our day-to-day people should clearly see that our wisdom and understanding comes from God's Word.

#### Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How does a believer faithfully walk in the Spirit?
- ❖ How does a believer seek wisdom from God?