

Our Dreams, Our Career Path And The Will Of God

Genesis 39:21 – 41:57

- I. It Doesn't Matter Where You Start, But _____'s With You (Gen 39:21-23)**

- II. Be _____ To Our Assignments (40:1-4)**

- III. Care For Those Who Are _____ (40:5-8)**

- IV. Help Others Find God's Purpose And _____ In Their Lives (40:9-15)**

- V. Tell The _____ Even When It's Uncomfortable (40:16-22)**

- VI. Even When We're Faithful, People Will Not Always _____ Or Appreciate It (40:23)**

- VII. Be Ready When God Says " _____ " (41:1-36)**

- VIII. God Has A Greater _____ For Our Appointments And Disappointments (41:37-49)**

- IX. Forget The Painful Past, Focus On A Fruitful _____ (41:50-57)**

Conclusion:

1. Stay faithful when forgotten.
2. Know God has a greater purpose for our appointments and disappointments.

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Introduction:

- Football – 9th grade fullback – 3rd string, 2nd string to 1st string – but went back to 3rd string when the 1st 2 got healthy. The point – you have to be ready when you're number is called

I. It Doesn't Matter Where You Start, But Who's With You (Gen 39:21-23)

²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

- Prone to failure:
 -
- The Lord was with Joseph
- Joseph was in a unique prison of the captain of the guard – not the average prison
- Showed steadfast love
- Gave favor in sight of prison warden
- Joseph was in charge of the prison
- Joseph was totally trusted
- "Whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed" (v. 23)

II. Be Faithful To Our Assignments (40:1-4)

*^{40:1} Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. ² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴ The captain of the guard **appointed** Joseph to be with them, and he **attended** them. They continued for some time in custody.*

III. Care For Those Who Are Rejected (40:5-8)

⁵ And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" ⁸ They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

IV. Help Others Find God's Purpose And Meaning In Their Lives (40:9-15)

⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, ¹⁰ and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹ Pharaoh's cup was in my hand,

and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."¹² Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.¹³ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.¹⁴ Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.¹⁵ For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

V. Tell The Truth Even When It's Uncomfortable (40:16-22)

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head,¹⁷ and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head."¹⁸ And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days.¹⁹ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.²² But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

VI. Even When We're Faithful, People Will Not Always Remember Or Appreciate It (40:23)

²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

VII. Be Ready When God Says "Go" (41:1-36)

^{41:1} After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,² and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass.³ And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.⁴ And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.⁵ And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.⁶ And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind.⁷ And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.⁸ So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today.¹⁰ When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard,¹¹ we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation.¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream.¹³ And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have

heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." ¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." ¹⁷ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile. ¹⁸ Seven cows, plump and attractive, came up out of the Nile and fed in the reed grass. ¹⁹ Seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and thin, such as I had never seen in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰ And the thin, ugly cows ate up the first seven plump cows, ²¹ but when they had eaten them no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were still as ugly as at the beginning. Then I awoke. ²² I also saw in my dream seven ears growing on one stalk, full and good. ²³ Seven ears, withered, thin, and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them, ²⁴ and the thin ears swallowed up the seven good ears. And I told it to the magicians, but there was no one who could explain it to me."

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind are also seven years of famine. ²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. ²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, ³⁰ but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt. The famine will consume the land, ³¹ and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of the famine that will follow, for it will be very severe. ³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. ³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a discerning and wise man, and set him over the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plentiful years. ³⁵ And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. ³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to occur in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."

VIII. God Has A Greater Purpose For Our Appointments And Disappointments (41:37-49)

³⁷ This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. ⁴³ And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁴ Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." ⁴⁵ And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. ⁴⁷ During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, ⁴⁸ and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. ⁴⁹ And Joseph stored up grain in

great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.

- God placed Joseph to 2nd in command behind Pharaoh, himself
- The big
- Joseph given a pagan name (45) and a pagan wife (45)
- But Moses emphasized Joseph belonged to God
- We are in the world but not of the world

Philippians 3:20 ²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Peter 2:11 ¹¹Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul

Hebrews 11:10 ¹⁰for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

- R. C. Sproul: The conflict between Christianity and secular humanism is a conflict about ultimates. This conflict allows no room for compromise. If God is ultimate, then manifestly man is not. Conversely if man is ultimate, then God cannot be. There can be only one ultimate. Compromise may be achieved in the realm of culture by tolerating competing worldviews. A secular nation may choose to "tolerate" Christianity to some degree as long as it is viewed merely as an expression of one form of human religion. But it cannot tolerate Christianity's truth claims. Christianity is always in a posture of antithesis with respect to secular humanism.

"This antithesis makes it difficult for the modern Christian to maintain the integrity of faith in an alien culture. He must face the difficult choice of playing his harp or hanging it on the nearest tree. **The Christian must be willing to be a pilgrim, a sojourner in a foreign land, if he expects to be faithful to Christ.**" (*Willing To Believe*, Baker Publishing, 1997,2018, pp. 16-17)

IX. Forget The Painful Past, Focus On A Fruitful Future (41:50-57)

⁵⁰ Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him. ⁵¹ Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." ⁵² The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

⁵³ The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵ When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do."

⁵⁶ So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of

Egypt. ⁵⁷ Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.

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Conclusion:

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