



#7- Heal a Family / Build a Nation

10/25/2009 - Jim Johnson – Gen. 39:19-40:23

Joseph was faithfully serving as a slave in the house of his master, Potiphar, while nursing his God-given dream of future greatness. Mrs. Potiphar interrupted with her slanderous accusations. Consequently...

A. Joseph's dream was _____. 19-23

Joseph was cast into a prison designed for political prisoners. According to Ps. 105:17-18, he greatly suffered there. The dream that God gave him way back in Hebron at age 17 was even more remote than ever. (19-20) And yet, Joseph still did not curse his God. The Lord was still with him, and continued to give him favor and success and he prospered. (21-23) Joseph's dream may not have died, but it had been certainly been postponed.

B. And yet his dream was _____ forward. 40:1-22

Once at the bottom, Joseph found that he had been perfectly pre-positioned by God to rise to the top of the civilized world in power and privilege.

1. God put him in the right _____. 1-4

2 more prisoners were added to Joseph's cell. The royal baker and cupbearer. They had evidently failed to screen the King's food sufficiently and were penalized for it. Joseph was put in charge of them and therefore had the opportunity to get to know 2 men who had an intimate knowledge of the court of the King.

2. At the right _____. 5-8

Each of the 2 men happened to have a dream, on the same night, with a similar theme. Joseph noticed their downcast demeanor, inquired and then offered to try to interpret their dreams for them. He credited the Lord with ability to give the interpretation.

3. With the right _____. 9-13

The cupbearer shared his dream and Joseph indicated that in three days the Pharaoh would release him and restore to him to his old job. Though Joseph was a dreamer, there is no indication that he had the ability to interpret dreams. God seems to have given him a skill that would be essential to his escape from prison and promotion to power.

4. With the right _____. 14-15

Knowing that the cupbearer would return to the King, Joseph now had a friend with some influence with the King. He asked the cupbearer to remember him and plead his case to Pharaoh.

5. With the right _____. 16-22

The baker told his dream and Joseph told him that it meant that he would be decapitated, & his body hung on a tree as food for the vultures. Both dreams were fulfilled exactly as Joseph had predicted. God gave him the right answers. Fortunately - the cupbearer had been restored, and now could plead Joseph's case to the King who would then erase the injustices of the past. Joseph knew that his time had finally come.

C. And yet his dream was _____ . 23

“The chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.” We will learn later that Joseph was forgotten for 2 more years. His amazing dream had been postponed once again.

ANALYSIS: Was Joseph ready or not? (It seems he was.)

1. **He had learned about _____.** For many years he had managed Potiphar’s house and the prison house. He had some skills.
2. **He had learned about _____.** God put with the cupbearer from the court of the king, the most trusted man among the King’s servants. He would know the more about the working of government than any other man, except Pharaoh himself.
3. **He had learned _____.** Once he interpreted the cupbearer’s dream, he humbly asked the man to help him when he got out.
4. **He had learned to _____.** He grew from being a self-centered child who was incapable of empathizing with the brokenness of his brothers to the compassionate man of Gen. 40:7. He sensed the need and reached out to meet it.
5. **He had learned to _____ in God.** When Joseph offered to interpret the dreams he indicated that he had become profoundly dependent on the Lord.

On the other hand. There was that incident with the baker. (18-19) Joseph delivered a death sentence to the man with little to no tact or sensitivity. These were acutely necessary skills to a leader – yet to be learned. Evidently - Joseph was not ready yet. Neither was God finished with his ordering of the circumstances.

APPLICATION

We typically are unwilling to do the hard work of waiting. We see what we want, and we assume that we are ready for it but too often the Lord looks at us and say, “no you are not.” Fortunately,

We can ready ourselves for the future by fully embracing the _____.

Joseph was headed for high level management one day. The dream told him so. In spite of his many reverses, he embraced his present. He would meet life with a positive attitude. He would allow his faith to rest in God. Most importantly, he looked for growth opportunities. He worked at managerial responsibilities in Potiphar’s house, and then again in the prison house. He did not sit and sulk. He worked, he grew, he studied, he stretched himself, he learned – he did his best to prepare himself for what he believed would be his God ordered destiny. We should do the same.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Where do you believe that God is taking you?
2. What obstacles are in your way at this time? Why do you think God may have them there?
3. What can you do in the present, then to prepare for your future.