

Jsph 06 – Refined & Delivered - Gen Ch 41

We **left Joseph** - *Literally* - **On Simmer**

He had **entered the Crock-Pot stage** of his **Refining** by God

He was **Wrongly imprisoned** -

he *thought* he **saw** his **way out** - in the *cupbearer*
but . . . he **got dropped** - & **forgotten**

& **the last Vs** we read about Joseph was . . .

Gen 41:1 - NKJ

1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, . . .

& we left Joseph - **Agonizing** - Seemingly **Alone**

Being **Refined** - *alone* - in *the recesses* of a *Dungeon*

Chuck Swindoll

"Pain, when properly handled, can shape a life for greatness"

Amazingly - **A.W. Tozer** goes even further;

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply"

Now - **That** may be the **LAST thing** we want to hear

But - - **is there** truth there - that **can be supported** Biblically ?

YES ! - over & over again - we see God use **hardship** & **difficulty**
to **refine** & **prepare** a person - **BEFORE** He can use them

God **REFINES** us

Then He **DELIVERS** us

Then He **USES** us

That is (almost always) the process - That **WE** require
to **be made ready** for His use

& **that's where** we "Pick-Up" the **Life of Joseph** today

Let's Pray

Almost always - a person that God **uses Greatly**
will **have a history** of some **great** & **painful REFINING**

& **if you ask them** - they will tell you . . .

that the **Difficulties**, The **Trials**, The **Fire** - was **necessary**
for God to **Prepare** them - for His use

They were - **REFINED** - **DELIVERED** - **USED** by God . . .

Abraham, Moses, Elijah, Noah, David, Paul & the other **Disciples**
all were Refined in the Fire
before they could be used by God

But maybe in no life is God's **REFINING AS CLEAR**
as in **the life of Job**

A time came when Job was **Agonizing**
about **not being able to see** God at work in his life

Turn in Your Bibles - Job 23:8-9 - ESV

8 "Behold, I go forward, but he is not there, and backward, but I do not perceive him;

9 on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him; he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.

Job is AGONIZING about **not knowing** - if **God** is at work

But - in the **Nxt Vs.** - we see **TWO THINGS** that Job **DOES** know;

- 1) He knows **God's Character**
- 2) He knows **God has a Good Purpose**

Job 23:10 - ESV

10 But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.

God KNOWS - the way that we take - **The circumstances** that we're in & **when** He has tried us - **we shall come out as GOLD**

God knows what you're going thru - & He wants to **REFINE** you, **RIGHT IN the Circumstances** you're in right now

But - **TAKE HEART** - when the **REFINING** is over
God will **DELIVER YOU**
& then **you will be ready** - for Him to **USE YOU**

Which (again) is **what we'll see** in **Joseph's life** today

But - before we leave Job . . .
what was Job's part, in this **Refining Process ?**
& **was it similar** to what we've **seen Joseph do** so far ?

We find Job's Part - In **Joining God** - in the very **next Vs.**

Job 23:11-12 - ESV → →

Job 23:11-12 - ESV

11 My foot has held fast to his steps; I have kept his way and have not turned aside.

12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food. [NKJ - necessary food]

Job KNOWS - that God is **Refining** him into Gold

Job KNOWS - that he must **JOIN** God - ***by doing what is RIGHT***

& there **DID come a time** - when God **DELIVERED** Job
& *tremendously blessed him*

& in our **times of REFINING** - there will **ALWAYS** come a moment -
when God will **DELIVER US**

When it's right (*In God's TIMING*)

He suddenly **turns the tide** - & we are **Delivered**

& **THAT** is where we **pick up Joseph's life** today

Joseph was being **REFINED** - *in prison*

& **Joseph** was about to be **DELIVERED**

& **it all begins** (*as you could guess*) with a **DREAM**

Gen 41:1-8 - ESV

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.

Now - isn't this a **COINCIDENCE** ??

AGAIN - **a Dream** - is the **'Turning Point'** in Joseph's life
(this is the **3rd time** a dream has turned the tide)

Pharaoh has a dream - He wakes up
& calls all his **magicians** & **wise** men together -
PROBABLY OVER BREAKFAST

& surprise - **none** of the **Magicians & Wise** men
could figure the dream **out**

But the **important thing** was
They probably did it over breakfast ! - - WHY ?

Because **the Cupbearer** would've been next to **Pharaoh**
waiting to taste his **breakfast** & **fill his cup**

& in an instant . . . Joseph is going to go
from being REFINED - to being - - DELIVERED

WAIT A MINUTE - Did I say "*In an instant*" ??

Do you think Joseph would agree with that statement
"In an instant" ??

NO - I think Joseph might've said
"GOD - HOW LONG CAN THIS GO ON ??"

But God Says - "*In an instant* - you are going to be DELIVERED "

But FIRST - The Cupbearer must finally - speak up . . .

Gen 41:9-13 - ESV

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."

FINALLY !!! - - - After TWO LONG YEARS of - - REFINING
Joseph was about to be - IN AN INSTANT - - DELIVERD

God had actually been **AT WORK - ALL along**
But now - it was **time** for **Joseph** to **Be Delivered !**

Gen 41:14-15 - ESV

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."

Now - **this** is where we **REALLY** need to **start paying attention**

Joseph **could've made** some **serious mistakes** - **Right here !**

*"Pharaoh - I'm glad you asked me here
I've got a few things I need to go over with you
I've been wrongly kept in prison . . .*

*& this Joker right here (the cupbearer),
if he would've had half a brain,
I could've been interpreting dreams for you for the last 2 years"*

NO - Joseph **would not** speak of himself - **AT ALL** (& he never does)

Joseph chooses to **do the RIGHT THING** -
regardless of the circumstances

he speaks **only of GOD** -
& only of what God **alone** is able to do !

Gen 41:16 - ESV → →

Gen 41:16 - ESV

16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

The **1st words** out of his mouth = **"I can't do anything for you but God will give you a FAVORABLE answer"**

The **HEB** word Translated "**Favorable**" is actually the word **SHALOM**

NKJ =

16 . . . God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace [Shalom]

NLT =

16 "It is beyond my power to do this," . . . "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

favorable - peace - at ease . . .

THE FIRST THING Joseph says to the Pharaoh is

"I can't do anything for you - but God can give you SHALOM"

With **ALL the possibilities** of Joseph getting some credit here
He does nothing but **point to God - & give God** the Glory

WHY ? - - BECAUSE of all the Refining he's been thru

At the **most critical time** - Joseph answers;

w/ **no pride** - no **self focus** - no **resentment**, no **bitterness**

Instead - Joseph allowed **God to speak** thru him

& he gave **God the Glory - even in advance**

So Joseph tells Pharaoh - God will answer you in "Peace"
& so Pharaoh tells Joseph his dreams

Gen 41:17-24 - ESV

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."

GOD has brought this moment to pass

He has brought Pharaoh to this moment

He has brought Joseph to this moment

Joseph DIDN'T have to DO ANYTHING on his own behalf

All he had to do - was speak for God

& so - Joseph simply interprets the dreams on behalf of God

Gen 41:25-32 - ESV → →

Gen 41:25-32 - ESV

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.

Notice How Many Times Joseph names **GOD** in the interpretation:

God has revealed (v25)

God has shown (v28)

It is **Fixed by God** (v32)

God will shortly bring it about (v32)

Joseph **never** takes credit **ONCE**

instead - he points **to GOD** over & over again

Joseph is **No Longer** trying to **Vindicate** Himself
(like he did with the cup bearer in prison)

Joseph is **Not** trying to **PROVE** anything
& he's **Not** trying to **GAIN** anything

Because . . .

. . . because he has been **REFINED** . . .

& now he is ready to be **used by God** - For **GOD'S Glory**
& so now - he is **READY** - for **GOD** to **DELIVER** him

He had **Stayed in the fire** - he **NEVER gave up** on God
& God **used that fire** to turn Joseph - **into GOLD**

& now - Joseph was able to

Do what was **RIGHT**

Give God the **GLORY**

Trust that God was **AT WORK** - & **IN CONTROL**

& **THAT** is something we **can't usually learn** - *out of a book*

We learn that best - by walking thru the Fire **WITH** God
Learning to **Trust Him** - **in the Midst of our Circumstances**

Now - **Not only** did **Joseph** interpret **Pharaoh's Dreams**
but he **gave him** some **Wise Counsel** on how to **approach it**

Gen 41:33-36 - ESV

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.”

Really Wise Counsel - but Joseph IS NOT selling himself

I believe - at this point - Joseph is Completely Trusting God regardless of the outcome of this meeting

I believe he knows now - GOD IS AT WORK - & - IN CONTROL
& he is Trusting whatever God's PLAN is

& God DOES have a plan - *like He always does*

& now - FINALLY - After Many Years of REFINING -
God's plan is - In an instant - to DELIVER Joseph

& not only DELIVER Him - But Tremendously Bless him

Gen 41:37-44 - ESV

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."

WOW - when God makes it **RIGHT** - He **REALLY** makes it **RIGHT** !!

In an instant - **after many, many years of Refining**

God **DELIVERS** Joseph

Joseph **was 17** - when his **problems** started at **home**
& **now** . . . **HOW OLD IS HE ?**

Gen 41:46 - ESV

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.

God had been **AT WORK** for **13 yrs** to **REFINE** Joseph -
& then - (& only then) God **DELIVERED** him

God had been **AT WORK** the **Entire Time** . . .

But Joseph had to be **refined into GOLD**
to be ready for how God was going to use him

& you & I say - well **THAT'S** Joseph - - that's **not me !!**

But God ALSO has a **Plan** & a **Purpose** - for **YOU!**
A Plan & Purpose that He must **REFINE** you for

& we must **TRUST** Him during the **REFINING** Process
& we must **RESPOND** correctly during the **REFINING** Process

& If we get bitter, angry or resentful ;
we will **prevent God** from using us

During your **REFINING PERIOD** - *Be Patient - Trust God*
Do the **Right Thing** - *Regardless of the situation*
& When God **DELIVERS you** - *Humbly Give Him all the glory*

God is **AT WORK** - **TODAY** - for your **GOOD** - & for His **GLORY**

1st He **REFINES** you
Then He **DELIVERS** YOU
Then you are ready for Him to **USE** YOU

Don't get it backwards

If He is **Refining** you - JOIN HIM - ***by doing what's RIGHT***
If He is **Delivering** you - BE PATIENT - ***God's Plan/God's Timing***
If He is **Using** you - BE HUMBLE . . . ***Give God the Glory***

It will always be God Who is **AT WORK** *in you* - & *thru you*

Joseph learned that his **trials** were **NOT** the end . . .

they were **the Beginning** of something **Much Bigger**
that **God was doing** in his life

May we learn the **same lesson** from God . . .

Don't give up - **Hold on** - **allow** God to **REFINE** you in the Fire
& **when He is Finished** - He will **DELIVER** you

& **when he does** - you will **be READY** - for God to **USE YOU**

Let's Pray

When God wants to drill a man,
And thrill a man,
And skill a man
When God wants to mold a man
To play the noblest part;

When He yearns with all His heart
To create so great and bold a man
That all the world shall be amazed,
Watch His methods, watch His ways!

How He ruthlessly perfects
Whom He royally elects!
How He hammers him and hurts him,
And with mighty blows converts him

Into trial shapes of clay which
Only God can understand;
While his tortured heart is crying
And he lifts beseeching hands!

How He bends but never breaks
When his good He undertakes;
How He uses whom He chooses,
And which for every purpose fuses him;
By every act induces him
To try His splendor out-

God knows what He's about.