

Series: "The Big Picture"

C.R. 10-30-22

"From Convict to Commander"

Text: Genesis 41: 16-57

Intro: Last week we left off with Joseph being brought before Pharaoh to interpret dreams. We talked about the fact that as he stood there, he must have faced an internal struggle. Should he mention his God to Pharaoh? Would he face death for doing so? Should he just stay quiet and try to interpret the dream without mentioning God, this way he could be a hero and keep his head. True to God, and in keeping with his character Joseph quickly answered I can't, but my God can.

Let's see what the result of the interpretation will bring.

1) Joseph's Persistence. (v.16,25,28,32)

- a. The more we study Joseph, the more we should love him.
- b. He made sure over and over to mention to Pharaoh that God was showing him something.
- c. Basically, what we have here is that through Joseph God was advertising and asserting himself in Egypt.
- d. Joseph realized what we must realize, the word of God, and a word from God is powerful.
- e. Pharaoh, God is saying this. When God says it you can count on it.

2) Joseph's Proposal (v. 33-37)

- a. We see here that not only did Joseph tell Pharaoh about his dreams, but he gave him a plan for when those dreams come true.

- b. It is amazing what is transpiring here. Joseph the Hebrew prisoner, giving advice to Pharaoh the Egyptian king.
- c. **Note:** “The future of Egypt was established without any reference to Pharaoh. The future of Egypt does not depend upon Pharaoh. He does not get to decide. In fact, Pharaoh is irrelevant and marginal to the future of the Kingdom. Joseph has calmly announced to the lord of Egypt that the future is out of his hands. In Gen 41, it is clear that Pharaoh can cause no future. Nor can he resist the future. Nor can he resist the future that God will bring”.
- d. **John 19:10-11.** “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above”.
- e. **Kent Hughes** “ We must remember in these uncertain days-when evil regimes thumb their noses at justice, and millions cheer them on-when dark kings prevail with seeming impunity, and righteous people are engulfed by the night. Remember that these kings do not make history, but rather God uses them to effect his purposes”.

3) Pharaoh's Proclamation (v.38-39)

- a. Most likely Pharaoh was not referring to the God of Joseph, but he certainly recognized something different about Joseph.
- b. A man in whom is the Spirit of God: Pharaoh had plenty of priests, magicians, and holy men. What he did not have (until Joseph) was a man with the Spirit of God. This made Joseph stand out among the others (Can we find such a one as this).
- c. This is the first mention in the Bible of the Holy Spirit coming upon a man. It is interesting to note that it was in regard to more practical things. Joseph didn't have to preach a sermon or lead a prayer for Pharaoh to see the Spirit of God upon him. He could see it in his character, in his message, in his knowledge, in his wisdom, and in his humility.

4) God's Promotion (40-46)

- a. We titled this series the big picture, which I want to keep in front of you today.
- b. It would appear that Joseph is being promoted by Pharaoh, but that is not the case at all. It is God.
- c. Only God could do such a thing as this. In one day from convict to commander.
- d. He went from the bottom to the top in a matter of hours.
- e. Yet we must keep in mind he was in training for years for this.
- f. He was given the ring of Pharaoh. (the platinum card of the day).
- g. Joseph was humble and recognized who was doing this.
- h. Promotion and advancement is from the Lord (Psalm 75:6-7).
This is not to say that hard work, preparation, good habits, and other human aspects do not contribute to success — they clearly do. Yet even those things are gifts and abilities from God and should be regarded with humility and gratitude toward Him.
- i. ***ILLUSTRATE:*** The late Joe Bayly, in *The Last Thing We Talk About*, tells of losing three sons, Danny, John, and Joe—each lost at a different age and under different circumstances to death, one before he was five, with leukemia. Remembering those heartaches, Bayly writes of hope finally returning: One Saturday morning in January, I saw the mail truck stop at our mailbox up on the road. Without thinking, except that I wanted to get the mail, I ran out of the house and up to the road in my shirt sleeves. It was bitterly cold— the temperature was below zero—there was a brisk wind from the north, and the ground was covered with more than a foot of snow. I opened the mailbox, pulled out the mail, and was about to make a mad dash for the house when I saw what was on the bottom, under the letters: a Burpee seed catalog. On the front were bright zinnias. I turned it over. On the back were

huge tomatoes. For a few moments I was oblivious to the cold, delivered from it. I leafed through the catalog, tasting corn and cucumbers, smelling roses. I saw the freshly plowed earth, smelled it, let it run through my fingers. For those brief moments, I was living in the springtime and summer, winter past. Then the cold penetrated to my bones and I ran back to the house. When the door was closed behind me, and I was getting warm again, I thought how my moments at the mailbox were like our experience as Christians. We feel the cold, along with those who do not share our hope. The biting wind penetrates us as them. . . . But in our cold times, we have a seed catalog. We open it and smell the promised spring, eternal spring. And the firstfruit that settles our hope is Jesus Christ, who was raised from death and cold earth to glory eternal. (Swindoll. Charles R.. Joseph (p. 69). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.)

- j. *Promotion day is coming for us all who in Christ.*
- k. Thank you Jesus for so great a salvation.