



LIFEwork

Week of October 4, 2020

Genesis Chapters 40-41

Read Genesis 41 all the way through.

Discuss

- As you listened to the sermon and read the chapter, what verse or thought stuck out for you?
- Dreams play a significant role in chapters 37, 40, and 41. Have you ever had a dream that influenced your life?
- Do you perceive that God has ever “spoken” to you through a dream?
- Most of us rarely get dramatic dreams from God like Joseph. When faced with difficult situations, what one thing can you do to get more clarity?
- What evidence do you see that through dreams God exerts his influence of events in the story of Joseph?
- Verses 16, 25, and 28 reveal a different Joseph than that found in Genesis 37. What might explain this change in attitude and behavior?
- What experiences have you had working for a nonbeliever? What can you learn from Joseph’s model about how to work in such a situation?
- In verse 39, Pharaoh recognizes that Joseph’s discernment and wisdom comes from God. “Discern” means to see or understand. To develop wise discernment like Joseph, what changes do most Christians need to make in their lives?
- God gives Joseph a plan for protecting Egypt from the time of famine. Read the following verses and share with one another what they teach about planning ahead?
Psalm 20:4; 90:12; 143:8; Proverbs 15:22; 16:3, 9; 19:21; Isaiah 55:8-9; Luke 14:28; Romans 12:1-2.
- How do you strike a balance between living in the moment—in response to the events that God brings into our lives—and planning ahead?
- Where were you 13 years ago? What has God done during that time to mold your character?
- God gave Joseph opportunities to make a difference by demonstrating patience, displaying discernment, and being a spiritual influence. Which of these is hardest for you?
Which of these do you believe you should actively be working to improve?
- What if prayer is considered dialogue? Discuss this concept: when you spend time “seeking God’s face” (2 Chronicles 7:14) He is actively speaking back into your life.

And speaking of prayer. I invite you to always spend time during your gathering to pray for one another.



TIME & PLACE & OPPORTUNITY – Genesis 40-41
October 04, 2020 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

CINDERELLA man

The two main lessons:

Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in ME;
GOD will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

1. Live a life of INTEGRITY
2. God will HONOR it in His time

Joseph ... so far (Genesis 37-40):

- awkward pain of a dysfunctional family
- resentment and hatred of his brothers
- terror of imminent death
- shock of absolute separation
- humiliation of slavery
- joy of recognition
- bite of slander
- cruelty and despair of hopeless imprisonment

❶ Suffering always changes us, but ...

Compare David and Joseph

❷ There is a DESIGN in my distress

1 Peter 4:12

❸ PROMOTE God, not yourself

Genesis 41:16, 33, James 4:10

❹ Count on the Lord to handle your “cupbearers”

It's God's job to deal with the cupbearers of your past.
It's your job to be faithful to a God who will not forget you.

❺ When change comes slowly, don't panic---TRUST

❻ When the reward comes, thank God without PRIDE

