



GENESIS

Joseph Interprets Two Dreams Genesis 40

1. We see the heart of Joseph reflect Christ. Even after all that he had been through, he still had love and concern for others, and he cared about the problems of others. Do you have an inward focus or an outward focus? Is there evidence in your actions that your heart cares for others? What does your care for others reveal about your relationship with Christ? Where does worry or bitterness steal your empathy and care? Read [Romans 12:9-21](#) and evaluate your own heart. What do you need to surrender to Christ? [Philippians 2:4](#); [Galatians 6:2](#)
2. In interpreting clearly both dreams, Joseph illustrated that he was a faithful messenger of the whole counsel of God. He was not afraid to deliver that judgment that God's Word spoke of. Are you bold and courageous to speak difficult truth when it needs to be spoken? For the glory of God and His Kingdom? Do you pray for boldness? Read [Acts 4](#) and evaluate.
3. We see the humanity of Joseph in his request asking the cup-bearer to remember him. It is the first and only time that we see him seek help for his circumstances outside of God. We learn from Joseph's human reaction that it is best to let God work on His timetable and not to put our faith in the efforts of man. As you evaluate Joseph's actions, ask yourself, Is your trust in the efforts of God or in the efforts of self? [Isaiah 40:30-31](#); [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)

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¹Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended their royal master. ²Pharaoh became angry with these two officials, ³and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of the captain of the guard. ⁴They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them. ⁵While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. ⁶When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. ⁷"Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them. ⁸And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams."

⁹So the chief cup-bearer told Joseph his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a grapevine in front of me. ¹⁰The vine had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon it produced clusters of ripe grapes. ¹¹I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took a cluster of grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

¹²"This is what the dream means," Joseph said. "The three branches represent three days. ¹³Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. ¹⁴And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. ¹⁵For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it."

¹⁶When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given the first dream such a positive interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I had a dream, too. In my dream there were three baskets of white pastries stacked on my head. ¹⁷The top basket contained all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them from the basket on my head."

¹⁸"This is what the dream means," Joseph told him. "The three baskets also represent three days. ¹⁹Three days from now Pharaoh will lift you up and impale your body on a pole. Then birds will come and peck away at your flesh."

²⁰Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he prepared a banquet for all his officials and staff. He summoned his chief cup-bearer and chief baker to join the other officials. ²¹He then restored the chief cup-bearer to his former position, so he could again hand Pharaoh his cup. ²²But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream. ²³Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.