

Sometimes the Skinny Cows Eat the Fat Cows **Genesis 41**

Open – The cyclical nature of God’s creation

1. Joseph and DREAMS...Again (vv. 1-32)

- It started with the sun, moon, and stars
- It continued with the cupbearer and baker
- Pharaoh can’t find anyone to help
- The Cupbearer’s “uh-oh” moment & Joseph being forgotten
- “It is not in me. God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.” (v. 17)

God continues to speak to people to accomplish His goals. Joseph is listening.

2. Joseph’s STRATEGIC and WISE Proposal (vv. 33-36)

- Joseph doesn’t only speak God’s interpretations; he knows what to do next
- A bit of salesmanship and tact – vs. how he blurted out his dreams to dad
- Trusts God’s message will come to pass
- Not only self-preservation, but strategic in helping others

It’s one thing to hear from the Lord, it’s another to act on what we hear.

3. Joseph is RAISED UP...Again (vv. 37-56)

- “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”
- Pharaoh sees God’s wisdom and power in Joseph
- Just like Potiphar and the warden, Pharaoh gives J- top billing
- Linen garments vs. coat of many colors
- Chariot ride through Egypt vs. slaver’s wagon ride to Egypt

The Lord will ALWAYS take care of His servants and redeem circumstances

Joseph’s Story is OUR Story

- We will often be forgotten
- God wants to speak to us – are we listening?
- God wants us to be wise in how we use what He gives us to bless others
- The faithful who overcome will be given a new signet (stone), authority over nations, and be clothed in white garments...

Questions for reflection, study, and small groups:

- 1) Tell of a time when you were forgotten or felt overlooked.
- 2) What is it about Joseph that allows him to interpret dreams?
- 3) Read Acts 2:16-18. What does this passage say about God speaking to us today?
- 4) How do you hear from the Holy Spirit? Is it through scripture, a “still small voice”, an occasional dream, pictures, or something else?
- 5) What are some ways we can measure and discern whether something is from the Holy Spirit or from another influence?
- 6) The Bible is always our authority on how to interpret what we hear. How does that give you confidence to listen to the Spirit? How does that give you pause to listen to the Spirit?
- 7) Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you recognize His voice and grow in understanding His leading.