

SERIES TITLE: Living in God's Story

PART SEVEN: BIGGER THAN YOU

TEXT: GENESIS 41

INTRODUCTION.

This series focuses on the life of Joseph and his brothers. It includes incidents of failure and success, jealousy and integrity, sin and righteousness. Through it all, God's plan prevails. These stories should increase our confidence in God, and our willingness to follow him in all situations.

DISCUSSION.

How do you account for the significant role dreams play in chapters 37, 40, 41?

EXAMINATION.

Vv.1-7 How are the two dreams similar? How are they different?

Vv.8-24 Why do you think it took two years for the cupbearer to remember Joseph?

What additional information or variations are in the version of the dreams when Pharaoh tells them to Joseph? Does it have any significance?

What impresses you about Joseph in this scene, and why?

Vv.25-32 Do you see the impending famine as judgment from God, just a natural disaster, or something else, and why?

What kind of response does the dream call for?

Vv.33-45 Why does the Bible not criticize Joseph for taking a foreign wife? How does his behavior differ from Esau's marriage(s)? (28:6-9; 36:2)

Vv.46-57 What is significant about how Joseph names his sons?

How has Joseph changed from the boy we met in chapter 37?

Consider how many people were helped because of the plan and position God gave Joseph. Do you think God put Joseph there as a solution for the famine, or was the famine just the method God used to put Joseph in power?

APPLICATION.

- What does this passage teach you about God's character?

- Like Joseph, what past trouble would you like God to help you “forget”?
- Where have you experienced “famine”: Socially? Spiritually? Relationally? Financially? Physically? What truths from this chapter address that kind of famine?
- Has there been a time when you were “short-sighted” in how God was at work in your life? What made it so hard to recognize what God was doing at the time?
- When you look back, have you been able to celebrate/commemorate God’s work in your life? How?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?