

February 10-Genesis 41

Yesterday when we left off, Joseph had been forgotten. He had been faithful to interpret the cupbearer's dream and yet the cupbearer totally forgot to hold up his end of the bargain of remembering Joseph. Genesis 41 begins with a really important phrase, "after two WHOLE years" (v. 1). Two years is a long, long time to sit and wonder what is going on in the palace. I'm sure it became rather obvious to Joseph that he had been overlooked. Can you imagine the conversations Joseph had with God during this time? I sometimes wonder if Joseph prayed some fairly angry and bitter prayers during this season of his life. Something to the effect of "God why have you done this to me?", or "Haven't I been faithful to you and this is the thanks I get?" Do these prayers sound familiar? It is so hard to trust God in times of despair. We must trust His character and our past experience with Him to get through our present trouble. Joseph did just that and it became evident in time.

Finally, a situation arises and the cupbearer remembers Joseph. Pharaoh has a dream and needs someone to interpret the dream and the cupbearer knows just the guy. Joseph is called up before Pharaoh and Pharaoh asks him if he interprets dream and Joseph's response is incredible, he says "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer" (v. 16). This is the same way that Joseph responded in Genesis 40:8 and it highlights an important part of Joseph's faith. You see, the temptation would be for Joseph to take all the credit for interpreting dreams. After all those who can interpret dreams would be very valuable to Pharaoh. Wouldn't it ensure that Joseph would never have to go back to prison if he proved that he was capable of helping Pharaoh? Joseph certainly could have thought this way, and we would be hard pressed to blame him after all he had endured to this point. But, Joseph was still ready and willing to give God the credit and glory.

What if God were to answer your prayer that you have been requesting for a long time? Would you be willing to give Him the glory or would you be so upset at the amount of time it took that you are tempted to take the credit for yourself? Joseph proved that regardless of the situation he would give credit to God when prayers were answered.

Faithfulness requires submission to God's plan and design. Admittedly, we often don't know what God is doing and it can be difficult to trust Him, but we have been called to follow regardless. Jesus said in John 6:38 "I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of Him who sent me." Christ modeled for us what it looks like to totally submit to God's will. It wasn't always easy (see the Garden of Gethsemane, Matthew 26) but it was always best. Often times, God's will takes longer than we would like but it always yields more than we can imagine.

Commit today to giving God all the glory in your life. Understand that His answers may take time and may not come about in the same way that you would hope or like but His timing is perfect and your job as a believer is to point people back to Him both in the good times and the bad. Joseph pointed Pharaoh right back to the One whose plan this was and the result was incredible!