

MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK

Tuesday, April 12, 2015

Joseph's Rise to Power

Genesis 39:20 – 41:57 (*selected verses*)

Major Segments:

- Butler & Baker join Joseph in jail
- Joseph interprets their dreams
- Good news for Butler; bad news for bake
- Pharaoh also has dreams and calls for Joseph to interpret
- Joseph predicts 7 years of harvest and 7 years of famine
- Pharaoh decides Joseph is the one to lead through those times

Segment Questions:

- The king's cupbearer and baker offended him, which resulted in them being thrown into prison with Joseph. What do you learn about Joseph from the way he responded to them in prison?
- The rest of the chapter tells of their dreams, Joseph's interpretation of the dreams, and how the interpretations were later fulfilled. In Genesis 40:14-15 and 20-23, how was life once again "unfair" to Joseph?
- Why did Pharaoh place Joseph in charge of Egypt (41:38-45)?
- How old was Joseph at this point (41:46)?

Action Questions:

- How can you keep a proper perspective when you have been "wronged" by others and you are paying the unjustified consequences? Can you remember a specific time or situation in your life like this that you could share? What was the end result? Would you now handle a similar situation differently?
- Who are some other people in the Bible who had "delays" in their lives?
- There is no mistake in where God has you. Allow him to use you where you are:
 - If you are, are you allowing God to use you right where you are?
 - How do you see God's hand in the "delays" in your life?
 - How is God polishing you?

Genesis 39:20 -41:57

From: www.btstories.com

Life in prison was hard for Joseph, but God was with him and blessed him. His jailor came to respect him and finally started to use him as an assistant. Eventually Joseph was in charge of the entire prison.

One day, Pharaoh put his chief butler and chief baker in the prison. While they were there, each man had a dream. Joseph listened to their dreams and gave each an interpretation.

To the butler he gave the good news that he would be released in three days, but to the baker he gave the news that he would be dead in three days.

Joseph asked the butler to remember him and to ask Pharaoh to set me free from this prison.

It all happened just as Joseph said! Pharaoh restored the butler to his previous position, and hung the baker from a tree. Still, the butler soon forgot about Joseph.

Two years later, Pharaoh had two dreams. He woke up after the first one, but went back to sleep. He then had a second dream, but this time he was so troubled that he couldn't go back to sleep.

He called for all of his counselors and told them his two dreams. They couldn't figure out their meanings. Suddenly the chief butler remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about the man in prison who interpreted his dream and the baker's dream.

Pharaoh sent guards to bring Joseph to him immediately. They got him, cleaned him up, and brought him before Pharaoh. He told Joseph about his dreams.

After listening to the dreams, Joseph said, "God is telling you what He's about to do. The seven good cows and the seven good heads of grain are seven years of great abundance. After that, there'll be seven years of famine. It'll be so severe that the good years will be forgotten."

"Therefore, look for a wise man to put in charge of the land. Have him organize the collection of food during the good years and store it up for the bad years. If you don't do this, the country will be ruined by famine." Pharaoh said to his officials, "Are we able to find anyone better than Joseph for this job? He has the spirit of God within him."

He turned to Joseph. "The people will submit to your commands. Next to me, you will be the most powerful man in Egypt."

During the next seven years, Joseph traveled throughout the land, collecting and storing food. Then, just as God had shown him, the seven years of famine started. This famine also affected all the surrounding countries.

When the people of Egypt started to feel the famine, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold them grain. Then all the countries around Egypt came and bought grain from Joseph.