

Joseph

Genesis 37-50

Genesis 37:9-11 Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, “Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me.” ¹⁰ So he told it to his father and his brothers; and his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?” ¹¹ And his brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

- God gave Joseph a vision of his future. Joseph recognized this as his promise from God. But it was not realized immediately.
- A note about prophetic words, they are often incomplete, but have something you need to carry you to the point where you will see it come to pass.
- But we will also see that even as this promise is not being realized, Joseph’s faith in and loyalty to God never ceases.

Genesis 37:23-28 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. ²⁴ Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. ²⁵ And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.” And his brothers listened. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Vs 36 - Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

- How did Joseph get to Egypt? By being sold into slavery.
- Was it God who sold him into slavery? – No it was the evil of his brothers.
- God rescued Joseph – but being sold into slavery may not look like the provision of God. But Joseph did not waiver in His faith and loyalty to God.
- There is no way this looked like the next step to the fulfillment of Joseph's dream. But that did not deter Joseph from serving God.

Genesis 39:1-6 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. ² The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. ⁵ So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.

- Joseph still has not realized the prophetic dream from earlier.
- Joseph is being blessed, but he is still a slave. No one is bowing before him.
- But the Lord is with Joseph.
 - When it seems like we are so far off track from where God has promised us to be, this can be a hard truth to realize.
 - Also, even when God did not specifically cause a situation, He can use any situation to bring about favor and blessing
- Not only was God with Joseph, but Joseph was with God. The people around Joseph could see God was with Him, even when Joseph was not in the situation that was prophesied and that he was waiting on.
- Our situation cannot deter us from following God.

Genesis 39:16-20 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. ¹⁷ Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, “The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; ¹⁸ so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside.” ¹⁹ So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, “Your servant did to me after this manner,” that his anger was aroused. ²⁰ Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

- How did Joseph respond here? He did not get defensive or try to defend himself. He knew that the Lord is his justice.
- **Genesis 39:9** There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”
 - Joseph did not want to sin against God. It would be easy for him to be bitter towards God, but Joseph stays true. He does not blame God for the bad things, but by staying faithful, sees God blessing him no matter where he finds himself.

Genesis 39:21-23 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. ²³ The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper.

- Again, it did not get better for Joseph, but worse
- Joseph could not have felt that this was getting him closer to his dream
- But again, the statement is made that the Lord is with Joseph. He is always with us, even when things aren’t going like we know they should.
- Joseph keeps doing good and right and serving God

While in prison Joseph uses the gifts God has given him. He begins to interpret dreams. Even in prison, Joseph keeps doing what he knows to do.

2 years later...

Pharaoh has a dream. The butler remembers that Joseph can interpret dreams and he tells Pharaoh. Pharaoh calls Joseph. Joseph responds:

Genesis 41:16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”

Then...

Genesis 41:37-43 So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?” ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” So he set him over all the land of Egypt.

- In one day Joseph begins to see his dream materialize.
- God was able to take Joseph from a place where his dream is very unrealistic to just about fulfilled in one day.
- People are now bowing to Joseph – and it is now just a matter of time before we see the full vision Joseph had come to pass.

But was God’s purpose for Joseph’s dream to have Joseph have his family bow before him?

What happened as a result of all of this?

Genesis 45:4-8 And Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come near to me.” So they came near. Then he said: “I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ So

now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

- All of Israel was saved and delivered.
- The only way this outcome could have happened is by Joseph staying true to God.
- When life got hard and unpleasant.
- When he was prospering
- When the word that God gave him seemed too distant
- Joseph stayed faithful.