

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 6

“1 And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.” (Genesis 41:1 KJV)

Two years was the period since the incident in which Joseph interpreted the dream of the butler, but he forgot Joseph and did not mention him to Pharaoh. The two years was not the whole period that Joseph had spent in the prison. Joseph entered Egypt when he was seventeen years old and for a certain period he worked in the house of his master but the rest and the vast of the thirteen years he spent in the prison and he was released and stood before Pharaoh when he was thirty years old, ***“46 And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.” (Genesis 41:46 KJV)*** But on that day when Pharaoh had seen the dream God had decided that Joseph would be taken out from the prison. There was no other way that Joseph would go out of the prison except on that particular day. You may ask why Joseph needed to stay such long period in prison and why he needed to suffer much before he would go out? It might be his faith was tested and he was tried as we read here, ***“17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: 18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: 19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.” (Psalm 105:17-19 KJV)*** He was tried with the Word of God to see if his faith was genuine and if he would keep his integrity and stay attached to God. That could be one of the reasons, and truly Joseph showed his complete commitment to God and continued to serve Him until the moment that He was taken out from the prison. We never read that Joseph was discouraged, grumbled against God and wanted to give up his faith and his commitment. Joseph needed to stay in the prison until the time that God would allow the seven years of plenty to be followed by seven years of the famine to come, the very time that God ordained for Joseph and his family to go into Egypt. We read in ***Psalm 105:17, “He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:”*** and we understood that God himself was the one who sent Joseph before them, and was ordained for Joseph to be sold as servant there. Joseph was counted as God’s servant, and indeed Joseph was so obedient to God in obeying and keeping the scenario that God had ordained for him to live. Now when God had sent him ahead of his family so he would arrange things before they would arrive there, then we can see the value of keeping him in the prison until the day of the dream of Pharaoh. We are aware that Joseph was promoted as overseer over the house of Potiphar for his diligence, faithfulness and the success he achieved. Now if he would continue be there, it might be some day he would get his freedom and would go back to the land of Canaan and be with the rest of his family. That was why when God put him in that prison then Joseph would not be able to move and so he would be forced to stay where God wanted him to be until the time that God had ordained for the seven years of plenty to start, then that would be the time that He would send His Word to take him out, ***“19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.” (Psalm 105:19 KJV)*** Joseph was so faithful to God; he was willing, surrendering his will and was waiting for the time that God would use Pharaoh to take him out of the prison.

So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Be willing to be tried and your faith to be tested to prove being a genuine person during the time of trials.
- Be faithful in serving God, and be willing to suffer for God while you are serving Him and in doing the ministry that He is entrusting to you to do.
- Never be discouraged, nor grumble against God nor wants to give up your faith and your commitment during prolonged trials.
- Wait on God and fully trust Him by holding on the scenario that He wanted you to follow.
- Remember that you are in mission and God is counting on you to persevere and to be faithful unto the end in accomplishing the purpose of God in your life.
- You are God’s servant and not only He is counting on you but the life of other people are linked to your life, therefore you need to surrender fully to God and be willing to follow what God had ordained for you from scenario.

The following was the dream that God gave to Pharaoh: ***“2 And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. 3 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. 4 And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. 5 And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. 6 And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. 7 And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.” (Genesis 41:2-7 KJV)*** The dream as we read was composed of two parts when the first finished Pharaoh awoke, then he slept again, and saw the second part of his dream then he awoke.

“8 And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.” (Genesis 41:8 KJV) God did not give him rest at all on that morning by the effect of the dream that he sent to him. Pharaoh was aware that there will be troubles ahead of him from what that dream showed but he was not able to figure out what were they and how to proceed with such an event. So he searched for help and tried to get explanation for it and so he sent for all the magicians of Egypt and the wise men there, and he told them the dream but they were unable to explain it to him. God intended on that day to let Joseph out of the prison and was ordained that he would be the one to interpret the dream of Pharaoh that was why all the trials of Pharaoh to explain the dream by the magicians and the wise men of Egypt failed so that Joseph would be released from prison.

“9 Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:” (Genesis 41:9 KJV) The chief butler was forced to speak and to announce to Pharaoh as we will read in the next verses about Joseph. He said, ***“I do remember my faults this day”***. His fault was being selfish did not mention Joseph to Pharaoh. But now he was forced to speak not because he wanted to help Pharaoh, but he wanted to save himself from troubles. He noticed that Pharaoh was determined to know the explanation of the dream by any means possible, and he was afraid that someone else would tell him about Joseph or Pharaoh would reach Joseph by another way, and when Pharaoh would know from Joseph that he had asked help from the butler then Pharaoh would know that

the butler did not report the matter to him and in such situation he would fall into troubles because he did not report what Joseph had told him and that would be considered as a shortcoming that he did against the wellbeing of Pharaoh, and that was why he said, **“I do remember my faults this day”**, and proceeded to confess spontaneously to Pharaoh what he was hiding and as the following: **“10 Pharaoh was wrath with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: 11 And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. 12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. 13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.”** (Genesis 41:10-13 KJV) So here he mentioned the name of Joseph and his story with Joseph not because he wanted to show faithfulness toward Joseph but to save himself from troubles. **I am not saying here that people would not help or do you something good, but many times people would help for a wrong purpose in their mind and you are not aware of it, and what I want to say is that you need to put your trust fully on God and wait for Him until He will move to help you and deliver you at His right time.** If the butler was a good man and would speak on behalf of Joseph two years ago when he was restored to his position then Joseph would be just released from his prison and that is all, but now Joseph would be released from prison and would occupy a high position, next to Pharaoh in the government of Egypt. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Trust God that He would squeeze the people to speak on your behalf at His perfect time even if that is against their will.
- Wait upon God to come Himself to release you at the right time in order to continue in the perfect plan that God had ordained for you to follow, as well as in order to receive your reward from God.
- Continue in the scenario that God had placed you in, don't do your own to be relieved, otherwise you would be side tracked and got deviated from the perfect plan that God had ordained for you to go through and in such you would be frustrated.

The butler spoke about Joseph the following: **“12 And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. 13 And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.”** (Genesis 41:12-13 KJV) He mentioned about Joseph that he was Hebrew which means Joseph had persevered to keep his identity as a man from the people who belonged to God. He mentioned that he was a servant to the captain of the guard, and that was his work as a slave who persevered in service. And he mentioned also the accuracy of Joseph in interpreting their dreams and how his interpretation was accomplished. Joseph was of good testimony and the butler never mentioned any negative thing about him because Joseph had worked hard to keep a good testimony and when he asked the butler to speak on his behalf, he presented himself and his case in a wise way and manner that would not bring any doubt about him. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Keep your good testimony as a person who belongs to the people of God, being God's servant and using the spiritual gifts that He gave you to serve God and the people.
- Do not speak unnecessary things that may affect your testimony and brings doubts about you.
- Be diligent in whatever secular job that God had placed you in to keep a good testimony and a good example to others.
- Use your spiritual gifts and be diligent in using them to serve the people, and God shall reward you through them as He did with Joseph.

“14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh. 15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.” (Genesis 41:14-15 KJV) Pharaoh immediately called for Joseph to be taken out from prison, even without asking the permission from his master Potiphar and he was taken out from the dungeon, and was hurried to shave and to change his clothes in order to meet Pharaoh. There was a big gap between Pharaoh and Joseph, and Joseph was aware as we explained that he knew that only Pharaoh can take him out from that prison, he might be thinking how this gap would be bridged, and how he would be able to reach such a place, the court of Pharaoh, and such a person as Pharaoh, and what he will speak and how he shall present himself to Pharaoh. *** You may be passing into the same thoughts of how to reach certain people, what you are going to wear, what you are going to speak, and how you will present yourself to them. * The clue to solve such a dilemma and the solution and answer for all these questions is that such a gap would be bridged when God had prepared the people that they are ready to meet you and listen to what you are going to say to them from the Word of God.** God if He did not prepare Pharaoh and humbled him and crushed his pride with such a dream then Joseph would not be able neither to reach him, nor to stand in his presence nor to speak to him. Pharaoh said to Joseph the following: **“15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.”** (Genesis 41:15 KJV) Pharaoh as if he was crying before Joseph, as if he was telling him that he was bankrupt, telling him that he tried all what he had from wise men and magicians and no one was able to help him to understand it, and only you Joseph left for me and I can't wait for you to open your mouth to interpret it to me. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You need to wait upon God to prepare the people and to crush their pride and arrogance in His own ways so that they would be humble and receptive when you would speak to them.
- Don't move and try to reach high rank people and speak to them about issues pertain to them when they are unprepared to hear from you; for it will be useless and it may be harmful to you.
- Don't worry and disturb your mind much of what you need to wear and how you need to look in meeting such people because when God would prepare them all the other things He would prepare and those small things would not be noticed.

- You may speak with those high ranked people when you are on the spot, but not that you are the one to arrange for that. When you are put on the spot to speak God the Holy Spirit shall put words in your mouth of what you need to say and speak. **“18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” (Matthew 10:18-20 KJV)**

My dear and beloved: * The story and the life of Joseph gives us an insight, that we need to wait upon God and keep and persevere in doing the scenario that God had placed us in and not to do our own. * We need to wait until the perfect time of God to prepare the people, to prepare the circumstances so that we are ready when He come to move us to do the task that He wants us to and ultimately He would promote us and reward us for all our perseverance in the trials and the scenario that He had placed us in.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give us eternal life. Lord thank you for increasing my faith in you. Lord thank you for the scenario and the plan that you had put me in and thank you for your encouraging Word from the life of Joseph that motivated me to go on and serving you bearing all the trials that you allowed in my life. Lord thank you for all opportunities that you had given to me to serve you and thank you for all the material blessings and the spiritual gifts that you had given to me and bestowed over my life that I will use them to serve you and the people around me. Lord thank you for all the lessons that I learned in this message from the life of Joseph, and thank you for all the teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received from your Word.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce all your fear, doubts, worries and lack of faith. Confess and repent of your non willingness to wait upon God and to wait upon His perfect timing to come and relief you and give you the reward that you deserve. Confess and renounce your selfishness and your non diligence to go on in serving the people and doing what you ought to do during the trial that you are passing through. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Confess and renounce your non willingness to use the spiritual gifts that God gave you to serve His people. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Repent of your yoke with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins

_____ .
 Lord I commit my life into your hand, and I surrender my will to you, to lead me into the path that you want me to pass through. Lord I am willing to wait upon you in the scenario that you had placed me in until you come and relief me from the troublesome circumstances that I am placed in. Lord give me patience and perseverance to help me to wait for you until you come and reward me. Lord I am willing to serve you and serve the people that you put in contact with me. Lord I am willing to use all the material and the

spiritual gifts that you placed in my hand to serve you. Lord give me good health, strength and uphold me with your grace, protect me and continue to provide for me to continue to serve you and do your will until you come to relief me in your perfect time.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you, willing to suffer the trails, the circumstances that they were placed in and to continue the scenario that you had ordained for them to go through in their lives. Lord answer their prayers, provide their needs, increase their faith, protect their minds and give them the hope they need until you come and relief them. Lord reward them for all their sacrifices and make their lives good testimonies to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to declare your will and your good plan that you had ordained for your people. Lord lead us and help us to continue to minister to those in trials and painful scenarios and to encourage them to continue into the narrow gate and the way that you want them to live their lives to you until you come to relief them. Lord sustain us to pass the following trials in our lives _____ . Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and enable us to make new disciples, train new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the church congregations and people who need to hear your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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