



Lesson 21 – Joseph in Egypt

Based on Genesis 39 to 41

Joseph with his captors was on the way to Egypt. As the caravan journeyed southward toward the borders of Canaan, the boy could discern in the distance the hills among which lay his father's tents. Bitterly he wept at thought of that loving father in his loneliness and affliction. Again, the scene at Dothan came up before him. He saw his angry brothers and felt their fierce glances bent upon him. The stinging, insulting words that had met his agonized entreaties were ringing in his ears. With a trembling heart he looked forward to the future. What a change in situation, from the tenderly cherished son to the despised and helpless slave! Alone and friendless, what would be his lot in the strange land to which he was going? For a time, Joseph gave himself up to uncontrolled grief and terror.

In the providence of God, even this experience was to be a blessing to him. He had learned in a few hours that which years might not otherwise have taught him. His father, strong and tender as his love had been, had done him wrong by his partiality and indulgence. His thoughts turned to his father's God. In his childhood he had been taught to love and fear Him.

1) Where did he end up?

Genesis 39:1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and _____, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

His soul thrilled with the high resolve to prove himself true to God, under all circumstances, to become a subject of the King of heaven. He decided he would serve the Lord with undivided heart; he would meet the trials of his lot with fortitude and perform every duty with fidelity.

2) How did things go for Joseph?

Genesis 39:3-4 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to _____ in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him _____ over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

Genesis 39:6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's _____; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

The marked prosperity which attended everything placed under Joseph's care was not the result of a direct miracle; but his industry, care, and energy were crowned with the divine blessing. Joseph attributed his success to the favor of God, and even his idolatrous master accepted this as the secret of his unparalleled prosperity.

Joseph's gentleness and fidelity won the heart of the chief captain, who came to regard him as a son rather than a slave. The youth was brought in contact with men of rank and learning, and he acquired a knowledge of science, of languages, and of affairs, an education needful to the future prime minister of Egypt.

3) How was Joseph's faith and integrity tested?

Genesis 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her _____ upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

Joseph knew well what would be the consequence of resistance. On the one hand were concealment, favor, and rewards; on the other, disgrace, imprisonment, perhaps death.



4) What did he choose?

Genesis 39:8-9 But he _____, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great _____, and sin against God?

Joseph's answer reveals the power of religious principle. He would not betray the confidence of his master on earth, and, whatever the consequences, he would be true to his Master in heaven. Under the inspecting eye of God and holy angels many take liberties of which they would not be guilty in the presence of their fellow men, but Joseph's first thought was of God.

5) Was it over now?

Genesis 39:10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph _____ by _____, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

6) Until what happened?

Genesis 39:19-20 And it came to pass, when his master heard the _____ of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the _____.

Joseph suffered for his integrity, for his tempter revenged herself by accusing him of a foul crime and causing him to be thrust into prison. Had Potiphar believed his wife's charge against Joseph, the young Hebrew would have lost his life; but the modesty and uprightness that had uniformly characterized his conduct were proof of his innocence; and yet, to save the reputation of his master's house, he was abandoned to disgrace and bondage.

7) What does Scripture record about this moment in time?

Psalms 105:18-19 Whose feet they _____ with fetters: he was laid in iron: Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD _____ him.

Joseph's real character shines out, even in the darkness of the dungeon. He held fast his faith and patience; his years of faithful service had been most cruelly repaid, yet this did not render him morose or distrustful. He had the peace that comes from conscious innocence, and he trusted his case with God. He did not brood upon his own wrongs but forgot his sorrow in trying to lighten the sorrows of others. He found a work to do, even in the prison. God was preparing him in the school of affliction for greater usefulness, and he did not refuse the needful discipline.

8) What was he able to do there?

Genesis 39:22-23 And the keeper of the prison _____ to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to _____.

It was the part he acted in the prison, the integrity of his daily life and his sympathy for those who were in trouble and distress, that opened the way for his future prosperity and honor. Every ray of light that we shed upon others is reflected upon ourselves. Every kind and sympathizing word spoken to the sorrowful, every act to relieve the oppressed, and every gift to the needy, if prompted by a right motive, will result in blessings to the giver.



- 9) What providential thing happened while he was steward of the prison?
Genesis 40:2-3 And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his _____, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where _____ was bound.
- 10) What happened with these two prisoners?
Genesis 40:8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to _____? tell me them, I pray you.
- 11) What was the cup bearer's dream?
Genesis 40:10-11 And in the vine were _____ branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I _____ the cup into Pharaoh's hand.
- 12) What did Joseph tell him?
Genesis 40:12-13 And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three _____: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and _____ thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.
- 13) What did Joseph ask the cup bearer as a favor?
Genesis 40:14-15 But _____ on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done _____ that they should put me into the dungeon.
- 14) What was the outcome?
Genesis 40:23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but _____ him.

The chief butler saw the dream fulfilled in every particular; but when restored to royal favor, he thought no more of his benefactor. For two years longer Joseph remained a prisoner. The hope that had been kindled in his heart gradually died out, and to all other trials was added the bitter sting of ingratitude.

A divine hand was about to open the prison gates.

- 15) Who had dreams that affected everyone?
Genesis 41:1-2 And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that _____ dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river. And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured _____ and fattleshed; and they fed in a meadow.
Genesis 41:3-4 And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, _____ favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river. And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did _____ up the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.
Genesis 41:5-7 And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of _____ came up upon one stalk, rank and good. And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. And the seven thin ears _____ the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.
- 16) Could the Egyptian magicians decipher the dreams?
Genesis 41:8 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 _____ that could _____ them unto Pharaoh.



17) Who stepped in?

Genesis 41:9-10 Then spake the chief _____ unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's _____, both me and the chief baker:

Genesis 41:12 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 _____; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

It was humiliating to Pharaoh to turn away from the magicians and wise men of his kingdom to consult an alien and a slave, but he was ready to accept the lowliest service if his troubled mind might find relief. Joseph was immediately sent for; he put off his prison attire, and shaved himself, for his hair had grown long during the period of his disgrace and confinement. He was then conducted to the presence of the king.

18) What did Pharaoh tell Joseph?

Genesis 41:15 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is _____ that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

19) Did Joseph tell Pharaoh how great he was?

Genesis 41:16 And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: _____ shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

20) What was the interpretation?

Genesis 41:25-28 And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is _____: God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven _____: the dream is one. And the seven thin and ill favoured kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of _____. This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

21) What suggestion did Joseph make?

Genesis 41:34-36 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the _____ part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the _____. And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land _____ not through the famine.

The interpretation was so reasonable and consistent, and the policy which it recommended was so sound and shrewd that its correctness could not be doubted.

22) Looking around the room, what did Pharaoh ask?

Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the _____ of God is?

23) What did he do for Joseph?

Genesis 41:39-41 And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and _____ as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be _____: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over _____ the land of Egypt.



24) What did the Psalmist say about Joseph?

Psalms 105:20-22 The king sent and _____ him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free. He made him _____ of his house, and ruler of all his substance: To bind his princes at his pleasure; and _____ his senators wisdom.

Through Joseph the attention of the king and great men of Egypt was directed to the true God; and though they adhered to their idolatry, they learned to respect the principles revealed in the life and character of the worshiper of Jehovah.

25) What did Job tell us?

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is _____; and to depart from evil is understanding.

There are few who realize the influence of the little things of life upon the development of character. Nothing with which we have to do is really small. The varied circumstances that we meet day by day are designed to test our faithfulness and to qualify us for greater trusts. By adherence to principle in the transactions of ordinary life, the mind becomes accustomed to hold the claims of duty above those of pleasure and inclination. Minds thus disciplined are not wavering between right and wrong, like the reed trembling in the wind; they are loyal to duty because they have trained themselves to habits of fidelity and truth. By faithfulness in that which is least they acquire strength to be faithful in greater matters.

Character is not inherited. It cannot be bought. Moral excellence and fine mental qualities are not the result of accident. The most precious gifts are of no value unless they are improved.

Can you see God has our best interest at heart?

Would you like to be strong like Joseph

When is the time to follow God only?