

Title: From Bondage To Blessing

Text: Genesis 41, 14-44

Genesis 41, please, Genesis chapter 41 verse 14. For those of you visiting, there are notes in your bulletin. And we invite you to use them in the study of God's Word this morrowing.

We have been studying in the marilous book the life of Joseph as he represents a type of Jesus. No man perhaps in the entire Bible represents or is a type of Jesus as much as Joseph is. So, we rejoice in what we see here.

Genesis chapter 41 beginning at Vs 14....(Read Vs 14-44)

This is a marviolous story. You will remember from last week that we discussed the problem Joseph had of being cast into prison, betrayed by his brothers, sold into Egypt. These were difficult times. Yet, God's will was very prominent in the life of Joseph.

Joseph is a wonderful example of someone who saw, even in the midst of testings and sufferings the hand of God. And the Lord made it to prosper in Joseph's life. Even when every things is going bad, God can make it prosper. God can show you things that you don't even understand in this moment. He can show you his wonderful hand even in the times of suffering. And he can turn it all around for his honor and for his glory and for your good. That is the great story of Joseph. He comes from bondage in the dungons of Pherhor all the way to being the ruler over all the land of Egypt. And God can do the same for you and for me. PRAISE HIS NAME

But, you see, we must believe that God can do something.

(1) And the first thing that I want to share with you is that the future of most of our lives is at stake. And we don't even know it. And that future is discerned by two separate groups. And they are illustrated so beautifully by Pharaoh and Joseph. The future of all the land of Egypt was at stake. And God gave this man two dreams which were really one. Which told him the story of what was going to happen in the land of Egypt.

And the future of all of our lives is at stake and represented by the response of those two men.

(1) Number one, in terms of the future. I look at those who are uncertain. Like Pharaoh. Vs 8 of chapter 41 tells me of those who are uncertain about their future. And there are two things that characterize those who are uncertain.

(1 0 Look at Vs 8.. "Now it came about in the morning that his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh."

Two things characterize those who are uncertain about their future like Pharaoh.

(1) Number one, there is no comfort. There is no comfort at all. His spirit was troubled, the Bible says. And you know, you may be here, right now, and not know much about your future. In fact, some people live so much in the here and now that it is like save over the real sore. They are trying to cover up for what is a lack of meaning and purpose in their life.

Wives can set at home taking care of the children, have a fine husband, and yet not knowing why, Yet they feel this meaningless and purposelessness in their life. And their spirit is troubled.

Men can have a wonderful wife, and home and all the good things of life and go off to work each day. And still have this uncertainty in their hearts. They can still have this restlessness and lack of peace.

Listen, my friends, you will have it all the rest of your days if you don't understand what God is doing in your life. His spirit was troubled.

There is no comfort, there is no peace for those who do not know what God is doing in their life.

And so Pharaoh was very unsure about the future. And there was no comfort for him.

(2) The second thing I notice about those who are uncertain is that there is no counsel. No matter how hard you try there is no counsel.

I notice in Vs 8 that it says that "no one could interpret this dream to Pharaoh."

Now, I remind you that the greatest most intelligent wisest men were under the authority of Pharaoh in Egypt. These same astrologers and magicians who had their source all the way back to Babylonia, the wise men of Babylonia. These were wise people. They were not ignorant. But, none could interpret this simple dream.

You know it is amazing that when we are uncertain about the future in our lives and what is really going to happen, it is amazing that no matter how hard we try to get counsel from people, we just can't get it. I was watching this the other day. There was this man trying to counsel another man. I was sitting there just listening. It was so sad as this one man had no certainty to his life at all, no meaning, no purpose, yet, he was trying to give counsel to another man. It was sad. There was none who could interpret.

And you may look at the future of your life if you are in the camp of Pharaoh, if you are uncertain, if there is a lack of meaning right now, listen. I tell you that there is no comfort, there is no peace, there is no counsel no matter. But, what a wonderful contrast is Joseph in all of this. Look at Vs 16: Because Joseph was not uncertain, but he was unconcerned. And there is a real difference.

You know, it is amazing that when you run into a Christian who is really living for God and understanding God will in his life, he is really unconcerned about the future. And yet there is a joy..there is an enthusiasm, there is a bounce to this life, he knows that God is behind

everything that is happening. But he is really quite unconcerned.

I heard the other day of a person who was looking at all that was happening in the world, how nations had come to power and then fallen, and he saw them all coming to a great climax and he said, "It appears that there is some great unseen force, that is really controlling all the nations of the world bring them to a great climax." And it scares me to death."

Listen, it doesn't scare me to death. That is God at work. Listen, the Bible tells us that the very nations how long they will be in power, how much territory they will cover. It has all been determined by God. And it has been determined all ahead of time.

Listen, God is in control. Maybe you didn't know that. He is in control. And there is nothing to worry about. And the christian who really knows the will of God, listen, he is excited about that. God may put him in the dungeons, in the prison like Joseph. But, he isn't worried. He isn't worried at all. He is unconcerned. This is God's will. And God will made it prosper. He will do that.

I wonder, do you believe the same about your life? God can make it to prosper. Well, two thing I would like to share with you about Joseph who was unconcerned about his future because he knew that it was in God's hands.

(1) Look at Vs 16.."Joseph then answered Pharaoh." Now, remaind yourself

that Pharaoh could have cut his throat if he didn't answer this problem.

"Joseph answered Pharaoh saying, 'It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.'"

Two things stand out in my mind at this point.

(1)Number one, he was resting in the promise of God. Resting in the promise of God. God will give an answer.

What a wonderful thing. A Christian who looks at the future of his life and wanders what is God doing. He just rest in the promises of God. I may not see tomorrow. And I may wonder what tomorrow holds for me. But, I am really unconcerned because I know that holds it and God knows what he is going to do.

God will give an answer. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and will mount up with wings as eagles. And they will run and not be weary. And they will walk and not faint. God will give an answer.

(2) The second thing I notice about Joseph is that he is rejoicing in God's peace. The very thing that Pharaoh didn't have. Because he really hits the nail on the head as it were. In Vs 16 he says, " God will give Pharaoh and answer of peace. Literally the word "favorable" is the word "peace."

Listen, God can bring peace to your troubled soul. And that must of have good news to the troubled heart of Pharaoh. Restless nights..dreaming all these dreams. And a man comes up..a Hebrew slave from the dungeons and says, "Listen, my God has so much wonderful peace that he wants to give

you. He has an answer of peace. Think of the confidence of this man, Joseph, standing before someone who could at the drop of a handkerchief have him executed. And he said, "Listen, God is going to fill your life with wonderful peace.

Yes, there is a difference with those whose future is in the hands of God. They are unconcerned. They know that God will take care of them.

But, there is another group of people who are totally uncertain. They lack meaning in their life. They don't know in direction they are going. And there is no peace and no comfort, no council. Because they just haven't seen what God is trying to do.

() Now there is another thing that I want to share with you from chapter 41. And that is the faithfulness of God to Joseph. This is a beautiful thing. How faithful God was to Joseph.

You may think that this is a bad situation to be in. But God was faithful. And he showed himself in a wonderful way. Three ways in which I would like you to see that.

(1) Number one, I see this in the purpose of God. Vs 32..The purpose of God. God showed Joseph his faithfulness to him in his purpose on this occasion, Vs 32 says "Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about."

I like that. The matter is determined by God and God will quickly bring it about. Notice, it is already settled before it come about.

Do you know that God is working out his purpose in your life. And everything that happens is part of His plan? The matter is determined and God will quickly bring it about. God's purpose is a wonderful thing.

I was thinking as I went over my sermon how many things in life are uncertain. About how many times I have been in places of uncertainty. And have seen God's plan and His will and what He is doing. And know the the matter is determined and God will quickly bring it about.

Boy, what confidence...what peace we ought to have in the Lord. He is going to do it. He is working his purpose in your life and mine. And what right to we have to question a God like that. It is determined and he will quickly bring it about.

(2)Secondly, I see God faithfulness to Joseph in the power of God in Joseph's own life. God manifested His power to him. And I would like you to see that in three ways.

()First of all read the verses. Verses 38 and 39...(Read Vs 38 and 39)

The power of God was in Joseph. And I would like you to see it in three ways.

(1)First of all, the reality of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. Pharaoh look at this man and he said, "Listen, "can we find anyone like this? In whom is the divine Spirit."



Oh, so many times we go around trying to solve our own problems.

We think it depends upon us instead of the power of God. We think that we can do the work of God in our own power. And dear friends, it cannot be done. It is in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God was in Him.

And if you are a believer this morning the Spirit of God is in you.

That is what the Bible says. Your body is the temple, a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You know, it is so easy to forget that, isn't it? You walk right out these doors and get in your car and start heading for home. And you get in an argument with your wife. The reality of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The power of God in your life. It is so easy to forget. The power of the Holy Spirit. That is a wonderful thing to remember.

(2) There is a second thing I notice here about the power of God. And that is the revelation of God's will. It says in Vs 39.. "Pharaoh said to Joseph, Since God has informed you of all this." The word "informed" is the word for reveal or put on display.

Wouldn't you like to know everything that God is doing? Wouldn't you like to be on the inside track of what is happening. God has informed you of all of this. He has revealed it.

Listen, when the power of God is in you, the promise is yours. He has promised to teach you all things, bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever Christ has said unto us.

The revelation of his will. Knowing what God wants in your life. The

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power of God.

(3)There is a third way in which I see the power of God and that is the realization of what real wisdom is all about. According to Pharaoh he said, "there is no one so discerning and wise as you are."

You can imagine what his court council felt about that statement.

There is a Hebrew slave standing before them, who had just come out of the dungeon. And Pharaoh says, "Joseph you are wiser and more discerning than all men." And here are all the BRASS standing there. The wise men of Egypt. The big shots.

You know I believe Christianity has been greatly affected by something that is present in our world. We have the idea that if you are educated ..by the world's standards..if you have accumulated years of education..if you have the intelligence of the world at your finger tips, then you are wise. My friends that could not be further from the truth.

Listen, God has chosen the foolish things, the foolish people of this world to confound the wise of this world. Listen, God has a different concept of wisdom. Maybe you didn't know that.

And I ask myself the question. What made Joseph so wise? And I think I found my answer over in James 3 I would like you to turn there please. What is real wisdom that comes from God? Not that which is the result of education. Because you and I will know that there are many people

who are well educated in this country who are not to wise.

Now, what makes a person wise? They may not have even and elementary education, but they are wise. HOW ARE THEY WISE? The Bible tells us. HOW WAS JOSEPH WISE? After all he had to spend his schooling in prison.

James chapter 3 and notice verse 13. This is one of the greatest statements on the character of wisdom found in the Bible.

Vs 13 says...(Read Vs 13-18) You know, God showed me something here. And I would like to share this with you. Vs 17 says that "the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable." I noticed from the Greek text that the word "then" is not repeated before each of the characteristics that follow. It is not "then" peaceable..."then" gentle and so forth as if in chronological order. First, "pure" then..then...then..etc...NO! FIRST PURE THEN ALL OF THIS....

In other words, the priority is PURE CLEAN PEOPLE. And when you are clean then ushering forth from that life is wisdom...

Think of Joseph. As we learned last week. Joseph took a stand against the temptation and the craftiness of that wife of Potiphar, who tried to seduce him, who tried to get him to commit adultery with her. And Joseph took a stand. The holiness..the purity of Joseph's life. Out of that came wisdom. FIRST PURITY...then all these wonderful characteristics. of wisdom.

Listen, dear friends, you will not be wise until you begin with a clean life. Because you see that which comes out of the mouth comes from a heart

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that is defiled. And if sin in in our life, no matter what we are saying, it is going to be in some sense defiled. Tinted by the very sin that is in our hearts. And we can't be wise because the wisdom that comes from above which is the quality of the Holy Spirit is FIRST PURE then all these wonderful attributes flow out of it. WHAT A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE IS THAT IN THE LIFE OF Joseph.

BACK TO GENESIS CHAPTER 41. WE SAID THERE WERE THREE WAYS IN WHICH GOD SHOWED HIS FAITHFULNESS TO JOSEPH.

It was seen the the purpose of God. The fact that God had established this and he would shortly bring it to pass. And secondly in His power. Pharaoh saw that. The spirit of God was in Him. He understood. He had the relation of God's will. And he was a wise man.

(3)Now, third, as to the faithfulness of the Lord. It is seen the the position that Joseph was placed. The position to which Joseph was placed.

Listen, this isn't anything to take lightly. God took this slave, Joseph, and made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

You know, we Christians need to get strightened out in our mind about position and practice. Every now and then you run into someone who is evaluating someone else in terms of practice.

Dear friends, that is a dangerous thing. Now, the Bible says that if you have the real kind of faith it is going to show in the good works of your life.

You are going to produce the way God wants you to. But, dear friends, let us never get in the habit of comparing people according to. Because you see, you run into a non believer, and he may produce just as effective in that quality of life from a human viewpoint, as Mr. or Mrs. Christian over here. You see, he is just as good.

But, you see, all of our goodness...all of our righteousness, the Bible says, is like filthy rags in the sight of God.

You see, you are looking at a preacher this morning who is absolutely perfect in his standing. Some of you maybe thinking ."Boy is he nuts...(Ha) Some one give him the message. Some one clue him in.

OH< NO! You see, the Bible teaches that the moment you believe in Christ, you are PERFECT in him. RIGHTEOUS..HAY! Don't start casting figuers around at Christians. Because of what they believe God has given them a position.

Do you think that Joseph earned this? NO! God did it. God made Joseph ruler over all the land of Egypt. And there are six different things that characterize this wonderful position. And Joseph is a beautiful type of Christ in it all.

(1)Number one, I would like you to notice in chapter 41 verse 42 the first phrase. The Bible says that Pharaoh took off his ring and placed it on the Joseph's finger. This ring from Pharaoh represented equality with Pharaoh. And every where that Joseph went he had the ring of Pharaoh on his finger.

Jesus said, "I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE." They were equal. God manifested in the flesh. The SON OF GOD. Jesus was God.

You ask, "Well, if that is true why is Jesus called the SON OF GOD?"

Listen, the word "son" is not the word meaning "born one". Never does the Bible use that word. The Bible never calls Jesus the "born one" of God. Never..not once.

He is the SON. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? It is the Greek word "we'hois". It means POSITION HIS UNQUIC POSITION..That was a term used of those who were adopted by people into their homes receiving the rights of inheritance. It referred to their position, now, as lawful heirs to the inheritance of the father.

Oh, listen, he is not talking about being "born". Like you and I are born. Jesus was begotten in that sense.

You ask, WHY THE WORD 'ONLY' BEGOTTEN? Well, we have a beautiful example to explain that word. The example is Isaac and Abraham. The Bible calls Issac Abraham's only begotten son.

Now, I ask you the question. Was Isaac Abrahams only son? NO! He had a son by the name of Ishmale. Then why is Isaac called his only begotten son? It is the same word used of Jesus, by the way. The word "begotten" refers to "unquic" Isaac was Abrhame's unquic son. Because it was in Isaac that the seed was produced that would lead to the Messiah. The Messiah would come through Isaac.

Jesus is God's unique son. He is the only one of his kind. And his position is exalted above everyone.

So, this ring of Pharaoh indicated equality.

(2)Number two, Vs 42 says that he clothed him in garments of fine linen. Over in the book of Revelation it tells us that the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints. You see, I am clothed up here in some very unrighteous clothes. This suit is really nothing. It has no moral quality to it at all. But, I am clothed by the Spirit of God in a perfect righteousness..Jesus Christ. You know, I like that. He didn't just put a sleeve on me. He clothed me. He wrapped me in the fine linen of the righteousness of God. PRAISE HIS NAME. That is my position in Christ.

Now, my practice often reflects the opposite. For that I humbly seek forgiveness. But, my position is secure. I have His righteousness.

He clothed him in fine linen. No more a slave. He is the ruler over all.

(3)The third wonderful type was a gold necklace that was placed around his neck. Now, gold always represents the worth and royalty. But, that is not the major point. The gold necklace around the neck represented the authority of Pharaoh. Everywhere that Joseph went, there was that gold necklace. His authority.

You might compare that with the deity of Christ. But, the authority of Christ was being symbolized. The Bible says that no other man ever spoke

like this man. People observed the authority of Christ and concluded that it was greater than the scribes. A wonderful type of Christ.

(4)Number four, in Vs 43 it says that Pharaoh made him to ride in the second chariot. What a wonderful type of Christ. Jesus the second part of the Trinity. God the son came into this world.

(5)Number five, they proclaimed before him "Blow the Knee." Again a wonderful type of Christ. Philippians 2:10 says that every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

(6)And number six. The end of Vs 43. He will set him over all the land of Egypt." And the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ will one day rule the world. He who was the baby in Bethlehem, who went to the cross and died for sins, who arose from the dead. He who is alive and coming back. He will rule the world. Did you know that? For one thousand years he will rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem. And during the reign he will prove to folks that even under a just and equal and fair society with Christ ruling, man will still want to rebel. Did you know that? God is going to prove that to man.

Jesus is King of kings and Lord of Lords. Joseph was made from bondage to the greatest blessing possible.

Now, I would like you to come down to verse 56. You know, throughout the Bible we learn that God prepares people for great tasks. Sometimes a serious situation rises on the horizon in God's plans for the

future. And God will prepare someone for that time. Just like he prepared Joseph to reveal the dream of Pharaoh. The Bible tells us that a famine came into the land. That was the point of the dream.

Look at Vs 56.. "The famine spread over asll the face of the earth."

World wide famine.

But, do you know something dear friends? There is a greater famine than this coming over all the world.

Now, the Bible teaches that there will be great famines in the times before the return of Christ. World wide famines, earthquacks, right before the time of the end of the age. We are seeing that right now. Some of the largest counties in the world in term of people are exprienceing famine in such propotions that one day it is going to break. HOW WILL YOU GET THAT FOOD? Some day you will have to fight for it in order to get it. Unless it is given to you.

The world is ripe. It is being prepared for judgment. And God will fulfill His word. But, did you know that there is a wrose famine than that coming? And God is preparing people for that hour.

It is found over in the book of Amos. Would you turn there please? One good thing about turning to Amos is by the time the message is over you will have just found it. The book of Amos. Page 1277 if you are using the correct translation.

Amos chapter 8 and verses 11 through 14. The prophet Amos said

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many things about his times in which he lived. But that wasn't the main message. He spoke about future times. Days that would come upon the world and what would happen.

And Amos who lived in a day when the sin and immorality was at its height, when people were turning from God and seeking self pleasure in all kinds of immoral living...Amos came in that day to speak the message of God. And he told them about a famine that was coming, one like they had never seen before.

Look at Amos chapter 8 verse 11...(Read Vs 11-14)

Do you understand the message? The point is that one day God is going to turn the sins of idolatry and corruption on the people and give them a famine like they have never seen in the history of the world. A spiritual famine for the hearing of the word of God.

You know, God gives you opportunity to take His food. But, He may bring a famine to your soul. A spiritual famine is coming over the whole world, the Bible says. It will happen in these last days.

There was a great famine in the Land of Egypt.

Where does a person find food for his hungry soul? I would like you to turn please, back to Genesis 41. And look at verses 54 and 55 to find out where you go to find food. Genesis 41 verses 54 and 55. It says...(Read Vs 54

and 55)

And once again Joseph is a beautiful type of Christ. Go unto Christ and he will give you food for your hungry soul. Jesus said, "I am the living bread." He said, "I am the water of life. Come unto me and you will never thirst again." Eat and you will not be hungry.

Man does not need to live by bread alone. But by the Word of God will lives and abides forever.

There might be a spiritual famine, right now, in your heart and in your life. It looks like a barren desert. WHERE DO YOU GO FOR FOOD? You go to Jesus. That is where you go. He invites us to come to Him. "Come unto me all you labor and I will give you rest. I am the bread of life. Eat of me and you will never hungry again. Drink of me and you will never thirst.

Would you come to Jesus today?