

NOTES

GENESIS 41:39-46

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.""

41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.

43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command,[a] and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

44 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt."

45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. And Joseph went throughout the land of Egypt.

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and traveled throughout Egypt.

GENESIS 41:51-52

51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.""

52 The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

LUKE 12:48

51 From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

WATCH IT

Watch this weekend's messages online: nlchurch.com/watch.

DISCUSS IT

Everyone is on a journey. Where we go and where we end up is not a matter of chance. Like Joseph, we can be chosen by God. Chosen to do something for Him, finding ourselves off course from where we think God was taking us. What happens next? Where do we go? This is what determines the course of our character. As we further discuss Joseph's character, use these scripture references and questions below as a guide.

Historical Note

Joseph went from dreamer to dream interpreter while he was in jail. While in jail he interpreted two of his fellow inmates' (a cup bearer and chief baker of the king) dreams. One was positive and one was negative, and both ended up playing out just as Joseph had said. He was unfortunately forgotten the next two years until Pharaoh had a dream that needed to be interpreted. The cup bearer then remembered Joseph and he was called upon to interpret. Joseph then interprets Pharaoh's dreams and reveals God's wisdom within his life. Pharaoh is so impressed that he promotes Joseph to second in charge of all of Egypt. Joseph's dream when he was 17 years old becomes a reality 13 years later when he turns 30. What an amazing journey of development for a dream.

1. Pharaoh recognized God in Joseph's life and thoughts. What do you think was different between Joseph and other people? (v. 39)
2. Joseph was put in charge of all Egypt. Do you think this changed him, or did he simply take on more responsibility because of who he was already? (vv. 40-41)
3. Do you think Joseph was disappointed he wasn't king, or was he satisfied being second in charge? Why? (v. 43)
4. Joseph said no to Potiphar's wife and eventually was rewarded his own wife. What does this say about the importance of remaining faithful to God? (v. 45)
5. Jesus said that to whom much is given, much is required. (Luke 12:48) What did He mean by this?

APPLY IT

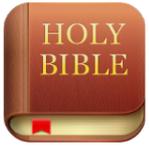
We want to help you apply the insights from Scripture practically and creatively. Application means change. Like Joseph's journey toward character, it won't happen overnight, but it should happen steadily. By making small, simple choices, we can allow God to help us as we develop and refine our own characters.

In this section, talk about how you will apply the principles you've learned from this week's message, then think about practical steps you can take in the coming week to live out what you've learned.

1. Pharaoh noticed that God was the source of Joseph's wisdom and insight. What area of your life is God most evident in?
2. Joseph was promoted to a very high position after all of his challenges of life. What challenges have you faced that has caused you to grow towards your dreams?
3. With the promotion came a great amount of responsibility. What is the next level of responsibility you are ready to take on in your home, work and church?
4. Can you clearly define a dream you want to reach for? What is God doing in you to develop what the dream requires?
5. Can you state what responsibility God has entrusted you with? How are you doing with it?

My take away today: _____

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