

Theme: DIVERS LESSONS FROM JOSEPH’S MEETING WITH PHARAOH (II)

Memory Verse: *Genesis 41:16 “And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, it is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”*

Texts: Genesis 41:25-40

4. Joseph gave Pharaoh an assurance that God would give him answer of peace. Not his words, God would give him an answer and meaning for the dreams. We see that many years of hard trial had not diminished Joseph’s faith in God. He had not become bitter towards the race of those that treated him badly. Whatever evil we might have suffered from the hands of a few men from a particular race, we should never become bitter towards the entire race; and not even towards our persecutors. We are to live peaceably with all. Joseph did not withhold valuable counsel that could save the land; he freely offered it.

5. Joseph exalted God before Pharaoh. Even though Joseph was aware that the Egyptians considered Pharaoh a god, yet he impressed it on Pharaoh that God is the only true God. We should be faithful witnesses of God’s power and saving grace wherever we are - either in the prisons or before the Pharaohs of this present world.

6. Joseph was selfless in all his discussion with Pharaoh. He did not for once bring up the matter of pardon or release from prison. He did not care whether he would be returned to the prison after his interpretation of the dreams or not. He had come to trust in God only. His trial had produced a finer character in him. Even when he counselled Pharaoh, he was not thinking of himself. He thought he was preparing the estate for another man, not knowing that he would occupy it.

7. Joseph was concerned for the preservation of Egypt. But as it turned out, the preservation of the land of Egypt became the means of preserving Israel. Egypt became the nursery where the nation Israel was raised up. How instructive that we should be careful to do good to all men. Surely we shall reap the good we sow into the lives of others.

8. The dreams of Pharaoh were genuine revelation from God. Yet he was a sinner. From this we learn that God, in His Sovereignty, can allow sinners to have genuine revelations from Him. It may be dreams or vision or angelic visitation (as in the case of Cornelius). But all these do not amount to salvation. The sinner must still repent and believe on Christ for salvation. Therefore let no one be deceived because of his dreams that come to pass. Jesus said, “Except a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

9. Although Joseph’s interpretation of the dreams revealed a problem in the making, he also provided a solution to the problem through his counsel. This is God’s way of doing things.

God does not only warn of the impending judgment on the sinner but also shows the way to salvation. Every time God spoke of His wrath to come, He also counselled immediate repentance to avoid the catastrophe. Preachers of the gospel should not only talk of the doom of the sinner but, like Joseph, present the Saviour who will save all that repent. Counsellors should likewise point people to the door of mercy and escape that is open to the confused and the troubled (Daniel 4:27; Jeremiah 18:7, 8).

	DAILY BIBLE READING	
	MORNING	EVENING
SUNDAY	Acts 16	Acts 17
MONDAY	Acts 18	Acts 19
TUESDAY	Acts 20	Acts 21
WEDNESDAY	Acts 22	Acts 23
THURSDAY	Acts 24	Acts 25
FRIDAY	Acts 26	Acts 27
SATURDAY	Acts 28	Romans 1