



## Part 4: Faithful in the Hard Stuff

Pastor Grant Fishbook  
February 9 & 10, 2013

### Review

Joseph was a favored son

Joseph was a dreamer

Joseph used his spiritual gift in an immature way

Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers

Joseph experienced God's presence in confusing times

Joseph was put in prison for making a godly choice

### Genesis 40

<sup>1</sup> Some time later...

**Perspective:** Joseph was in prison between 11 and 13 years.

...the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, <sup>3</sup> and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. <sup>4</sup> The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, and he attended them.

After they had been in custody for some time, <sup>5</sup> each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

<sup>6</sup> When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. <sup>7</sup> So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces so sad today?"

<sup>8</sup> "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."

Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

### Evidence that God has bent Joseph:

Joseph is focused on the gift-giver, not just the gift

Joseph states the source of all spiritual gifting

Joseph has chosen the position of humility

<sup>9</sup> So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, <sup>10</sup> and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. <sup>11</sup> Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

<sup>12</sup> "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days. <sup>13</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. <sup>14</sup> But when all goes well with you, remember me and

show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. <sup>15</sup> For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.”

**Truth: There’s nothing wrong with wanting to be released from a burden, but true faithfulness is defined by how we handle ourselves when the burden is still there.**

<sup>16</sup> When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread.

<sup>17</sup> In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”

<sup>18</sup> “This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. <sup>19</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat away your flesh.”

<sup>20</sup> Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: <sup>21</sup> He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand, <sup>22</sup> but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

**Truth: God is always preparing us for the next platform.**

<sup>23</sup> The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

**Truth: Our faith is most deeply tested when we feel forgotten.**

### **God’s Promise:**

**A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. -Isaiah 42:3-4**

**How would my life be different if I was absolutely convinced in every moment, no matter how good or how bad, that God was with me?**

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) When you were a kid, did you parents ever leave you behind by accident? How did that make you feel?
- 2) Do you know your spiritual gifts? How are you using them right now in your life?
- 3) What do you believe sustained Joseph in the years of his imprisonment? How do you handle long-standing burdens in your own life?
- 4) How is God currently bending your character? What evidence is there that you are embracing that painful process?
- 5) How did God prepare you for the platform you are currently standing on?
- 6) Share the burden that you have been carrying the longest. Pray about that tenured burden right now.

**OUR MISSION** | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.