

## JOSEPH- PROFILE OF COURAGE

### Part 5: Courage in Prosperity (Gen. 40:20-41:57)

**INTRO:** Studying life of OT patriarch Joseph, a profile in courage. Joseph has already endured more underserved and difficult circumstances than most of us face in a lifetime, much less ages 17-30 (dysfunctional family, cruel siblings, slavery, falsely accused, thrown into prison (literally)—and pleading to be free from his undeserved situation (40:14-15). Most of our prisons are different... When ended Ch. 40 Joseph is confined 13 years. All the time being prepared by God for a big assignment. For almost 14 years he had struggled in the darkness (Isa. 45:3). All the time God was giving him treasures to prepare him for the biggest challenge of his life... Like Potiphar, the prison keeper noticed something unusual about Joseph (God was with him) and he is in charge of all the prisoners (39:20b-23). Now about to face his biggest challenge of all—prosperity and power to pay back (Ch. 42). Often a much greater test.

**SERIES QUESTION:** “How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?” Powerful question serving as a filter to gain healthy perspective on life (in any situation). But when God is with you these things don’t happen. Really? Ask Daniel, his friends, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Paul, Jesus. For 13 years it was all bad for Joseph. Now transition to the other extreme of prosperity and power. How would he do? Same courage and trust? Easy to drift away in the good times. Turn away or toward God. Let’s read through Ch. 41, then make some application.

**PHAROAH’S TROUBLING DREAMS (vv.1-8)** — Two troubling dreams no one could interpret.

**BUTLER’S JOGGED MEMORY (vv.9-13)** — “Then” is big game changer. Then butler remembered (two years later). Who touched his memory?

### JOSEPH’S GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY (vv.14-16)

- Summoned (vv.14-15) – opportunity of a lifetime. Don’t blow it!
- Courage (v.16) – He begins with God. Everyone is watching. Don’t talk to someone about God when he thinks he is a god! (Ex: Daniel, Stephen, Paul) God not Joseph is the focus (vv.16, 25, 28, 32, 38, 39).

### TROUBLING DREAMS RETOLD (vv.17-24) —

**JOSEPH’S INTERPRETATION (vv.25-31)** — God has decided. Seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

**JOSEPH’S ADVICE (vv.32-36)** — Who counsels a god? He has advisors everywhere! Why listen to Joseph? Same reason Potiphar, prison keeper, butler did—all saw God was with him. Pharaoh’s response?

**JOSEPH’S PROMOTION (vv.37-46a)** — Prime minister. Second in command. Gen. 37:5-11 fulfilled. He received... Next 14 years Joseph in charge of Egypt and the world (vv.53-57). How would he handle prosperity (the same?). It’s very hard to live a God-is-with-you-life when you have everything. Few people pass the test of prosperity. Prosperity erodes dependency and trust.

### HOW MAINTAIN PERSPECTIVE? HOW LIVE A GOD-IS-WITH-ME LIFE?

1. *Publicly declare your dependence upon God (v.16).* Go public with your trust in God. So needed in the public arena, esp. in marketplace (Matt. 10:32-33; Pro. 29:25; 1 Pet. 3:15).
2. *Leverage everything God gives you to bless others.* Joseph saved the world. No use of prosperity and power for personal gain. We are stewards not owners. God does not bless us because of us or for us but for helping others.
3. *Find a way to remember God’s gracious work in your life.* We need to never forget where we were and where God has taken us. He was there all the way. How did Joseph remember? (vv.50-52) In how he named his kids. “Manasseh” (forgotten) reminded him of where God had brought him from. “Ephraim” reminded him of what had brought him to (double fruitful). Every time he looked at his kids he was reminded of God’s faithfulness. We can’t rename our kids, but... Ex: pics in office

**CONC:** Whether in prison or palace, Joseph takes it all in stride. Apostle Paul was similar (Phil. 4:11-13). How? v.13 God was with him.

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