



Lesson #5: What to do when you feel forgotten (Genesis 41)

Loneliness is a growing problem in our society. A study by the American Council of Life Insurance reported that the most lonely group in America are _____. It's interesting that we can be in a room with a lot of people and have a wonderful church family but yet in the midst of all that there are still some that feel very _____. Joseph was right there with you. Joseph, the prized son of Jacob and the eventual ruler of Egypt (next to Pharaoh, was forgotten when he needed to be remembered most.

When it comes to times that you feel forgotten or when it seems like even though you're in the crowd you're not a part of it, Genesis 41 is the chapter for you! God has given us in story form what to do and how to feel when you are forgotten. If there's any chapter in the book of Genesis that talks about God's _____ this is the best one! The story of Genesis 41 is not about Pharaoh's dreams and the man who interprets them but about the God who is with the _____.

YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S _____

- A. God uses _____**
The Butler "forgot" Joseph (40:23). In fact, he forgot him for _____ years (41:1). Even though those years seem like a short amount of time in Scripture it's still _____ months, _____ weeks, and _____ days. This was a long time to be forgotten! But God had a purpose. During those years in Egypt God was taking Joseph through a school that only He could give and preparing Joseph for something that only He knew he was going to be prepared for.
- B. God uses _____**
Pharaoh's dreams play a central lynchpin in the narrative of Joseph's story. It's really the turning point of the story. It's the means by which God's providential plan is set into motion. _____ dream is the moment that _____ dream begins to be fulfilled. God takes the king's dreams about cows and corn and it becomes a way for Him to show His sovereignty.

YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S PERFECT _____

- A. His _____ is perfect**
In the perfect wisdom of God all the sudden we see the timing of all that has taken place taking shape. God is orchestrating all these events. It was Jerry Bridges who said, "God never wastes _____" and Joseph is learning that God never wastes _____ either.
- B. His _____ are perfect**
In verses 9-13 it's amazing to realize that God has awakened a tremendous sense of _____ doom in Pharaoh. This dream shook him to his core. Terrified, Pharaoh called for his wisemen but none could help interpret it for him. But while the wisemen were relying on man's wisdom Joseph would lean only on God (41:16). God uses an ordinary dream to get Pharaoh's _____ just as He will use ordinary things to get our _____.

YOU CAN TRUST GOD'S _____

- A. God promotes those who stay _____ to _____**
God put within Joseph a love for the Lord and a realization that God was always with Him. So to, you must remember that God is always with you! The more you know God the more you _____ (Proverbs 9:10).
- B. God promotes those who stay _____**
Joseph didn't use his new found favor with Pharaoh as an opportunity to step over those who had kicked him down (e.g. The Butler and Potiphar). Instead, 13 years of being in God's school hose of trials brought _____ to his soul. "It is not in _____: _____ shall give Pharaoh an answer" (41:16).
- C. God promotes those who stay _____ for Him**
Joseph fearlessly told the _____. He warned of a coming famine, a famine that would consume the land and be "very grievous."

Concluding Thoughts

Maybe you feel forgotten today. I encourage you to go back to Genesis 41 and read the life of Joseph and realize that even when he felt forgotten he still realized that he could _____.

"During the waiting period, trust God without _____ and when the reward comes thank God without _____."