

# ***Joseph: An Example of Faithful Presence at Work***

## ***Genesis 37-41***

**Introduction:** God often prepares men and women to make a strategic difference for Him in their secular vocation. Joseph's story is a dramatic account of how God prepares people for influence and what they should do when they realize they have a platform to express their faith in Christ at work. We'll look specifically at Genesis 37-41.

### **1. *BE PATIENT FOR OPPORTUNITIES: God generally takes time to prepare us for influence in the context of our work. Genesis 37:18-19; 41:1-45***

- A. Joseph's early career is marked by great pain.
  - 1. God had given Joseph some natural and some supernatural talents. 37:3, 5, 9
  - 2. But, Joseph was sold into slavery, and then sold again. 37:27-28; 39:1
  - 3. Then, Joseph was put into prison unjustly for sexual assault. 39: [1-10] 11-23
  - 4. A painful or stalled out career does not mean you're finished!
- B. Joseph's background was also one of great faith in God.
  - 1. Joseph could have rejected God. But, instead he totally depends on Him. 39:2-3; 23
  - 2. When asked, Joseph gives the credit to God in a wise way. 40:8
- C. Insights from Joseph's background.
  - 1. Some feel they can't be used by God because of a rough career path.
  - 2. God uses pain in our work to shape us to be used by Him. Be patient.
  - 3. But, there are things you can do now.

### **2. *BE FAITHFUL WITH OPPORTUNITIES – When success does come, faithfully serve the organization and God as an expression of faith. Genesis 41:46-57***

- A. Joseph receives a tremendous opportunity. 40:1—41:37
  - 1. While in jail, Joseph faithfully used his gift (40:1-22). But he is forgotten (40:23).
  - 2. Pharaoh has a dream and Joseph was remembered. 41:1-13
  - 3. Joseph is brought before Pharaoh. 41:14-24
  - 4. Joseph interprets the dream and provides guidance for the future. 41:25-37
  - 5. The key: His pain has made him strong and bold in God. 41:16, 25
  - 6. Another key: His pain has given him a solid sense of self.
- B. Joseph is elevated to leadership. 41:38—41:45
  - 1. God is the one who elevates Joseph (even over the cupbearer). 41:38-41
  - 2. Joseph receives cultural symbols of power. 41:42-44
  - 3. Joseph receives more cultural symbols of power. 41:45a
  - 4. Joseph begins to lead. 41:45b
- C. Joseph serves skillfully. 41:46-57
  - 1. He serves skillfully in the good times. 41:46-49
  - 2. He continues to give the credit to God. 41:50-52
  - 3. He serves skillfully in the bad times. 41:53-56
  - 4. Joseph is strategically used by God. "All the earth." 41:56
- D. Insight from Joseph's service.
  - 1. God desires that you use your vocation as a platform for serving Him. Yes, it's very challenging in this culture! But, it was challenging in Egyptian culture.
  - 2. Your *first* role is to excel at your job through the use of your gifts.
  - 3. Your *second* role is to be honest about your faith consistent with the culture.
  - 4. Your *third* role is to assess whether God is bringing unusual opportunities your way.

### **3. *EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO SERVE GOD ON THE JOB – Stories from GCC.***