

Joseph Ascends to Power

I. Intro

- A. Last week: Not in Me, but God
 - 1. This truth is vital, don't take what you were not meant to carry
 - 2. Point people to Jesus, use His word, its liberating for the follower of Christ
- B. As I'm writing this, I'm wondering what tragedy will strike next. How do we continue serving in the midst of such persecution and difficulty. How will the church respond? Will we let Him work through us? Will people turn to God?
 - 1. Last weeks challenge to read the beatitudes often
 - 2. For me it was many times a day. What about you?
- C. In our story today, Joseph moves from the Prison to the Palace, and comes to power
 - 1. But not because of himself
 - 2. It is because of GOD!
- D. Let me be clear today:
 - 1. You are not saved because of your good works
 - 2. You are saved by GRACE through FAITH
 - 3. And you are saved FOR GOOD WORKS
 - 4. [Eph 2:1-10 ESV] 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

II. Text

- A. Verses 37-38
 - 1. A wise and discerning man was standing before Pharaoh
 - 2. Pharaoh had to recognize his own limitations, and yield to God's plan
- B. Verses 39-40:
 - 1. Pharaoh's words: Since God has shown you this, there is none so qualified as you
 - 2. Pharaoh's actions: you shall be over my house and people and they shall do what you tell them.
- C. Verses 41-44:
 - 1. Words matched by actions
 - 2. The title: overseer
 - 3. The Ring: the maker of binding decrees
 - 4. The Garments: look like the leader you are
 - 5. The Gold chain: a sign of authority
 - 6. The Chariot: the symbol of power...Chariot Force 2
 - 7. The respect: they bow to him
 - 8. The authority: ultimate authority and command
- D. Verses 45-46: Pharaoh gave him a life, Joseph then went to work. Went about the land of Egypt
 - 1. Potiphara and Potiphar are not the same
 - 2. Potiphar was captain of the guard
 - 3. Potiphara was priest of Ra

- E. Verses 47-49: The work of his plan based upon the mission of God
- F. Verses 50-52:
 - 1. Manasseh: Forget all the hardships of his fathers house (Amnesia)
 - 2. Ephraim: Fruitful in affliction (blessings)
 - 3. These two will be blessed by Jacob (Israel) as having full share promise as a tribe of Israel.
- G. Verses 53-57:
 - 1. Pharaoh continues to defer to Joseph
 - 2. All the earth came to Egypt
 - 3. God brought about the rescue, they simply needed to go to the source of blessing

III. Point

- A. God has shown you
 - 1. Pharaoh recognizes through his words and actions that there is a higher authority in Egypt
 - 2. God has shown us in similar ways:
 - a) We know God's will, and choose to follow or ignore
 - b) We know we have been challenged to use our gifts, but choose to sit idle or we choose to develop the gifts to be more useful
 - c) We know God's plan for salvation, and we choose to proclaim it or we choose to just talk about it. (There is a difference)
 - 3. One of the great problems in the modern church is the understanding of God's plan, and apathy while living in it.
 - 4. [Mic 6:8 ESV] 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?
 - 5. God had shown Pharaoh, through Joseph, that the one true God had a message for him.
 - a) He didn't come to faith in God, but he did allow for Joseph's faith, he couldn't ignore the truth completely.
 - b) He did not fully submit to God, but did allow for God to work.
- B. The Mission required work
 - 1. If they had heard this message from God and simply done nothing, they would have failed the task.
 - a) The 7 years of plenty required work
 - b) The 7 years of famine required work
 - c) Life was sustained because they followed God's plan, by His power, but they had responsibility.
 - 2. The mission requires work, but that work is not in our flesh.
 - a) Remember, it's not in us, but God can and will accomplish the mission through us.
 - b) The mission is not by our design, and will not be successful by our strength.
 - c) Last week was tragic
 - (1) Charlie Kirk's death was a wake up call
 - (2) We have had thousands of wake up calls,
 - (a) and what do we do about it?
 - (b) How long do they last?
 - (3) The largest wake up call in my lifetime may have been the attacks on 9/11, churches were filled up for a few weeks, then things went back to a new normal.
 - (4) Most wake up calls go unanswered.
 - 3. We need something lasting in this country, we need revival, and we have work to do!
 - 4. Make a list of 5 names that the Lord brings to your mind
 - a) This list needs to be people God puts on your heart

- b) People who are lost, people who are angry with the church, people who need YOU to witness to them.
- c) THIS IS THE WORK!

C. Christ Connection

- 1. Joseph, like Christ, ascended from the pit to the right hand of the throne and was given authority over all things.
- 2. Glory comes after suffering. For Joseph, Jesus & us. This is the pattern.
- 3. The mission was difficult, and the victory is with God

IV. Close

[Gen 41:37-57 ESV] 37 This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. 38 And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you." 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. 43 And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphenath-paneah. And he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On. So Joseph went out over the land of Egypt. 46 Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. 47 During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, 48 and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. 49 And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured. 50 Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara priest of On, bore them to him. 51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." 52 The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction." 53 The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, 54 and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. 55 When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do." 56 So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. 57 Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.