JOE **– Forgotten Joe – wk2 – Prison**

**The events of Joes life were not necessarily easy, but they shaped his life and changed the world forever - even gave us our salvation.**

**At 17 – was given a dream of the future that his family and the nations would bow to him. But he was living in a dysfunctional home**

**Son of Jacob, 11 bro, 1 sis, 3 step-moms – house of chaos, jealousy, rage, murder, abuse. Assaulted and sold into slavery - winds up in Egypt.**

**After a rough start, things started looking up… until he was falsely accused of rape and tossed into prison.**

**But Joseph was faithful to God and never compromised…**

**\*\* From problems at home - to Potiphar’s home - to a prison cell home – the one thing that stayed the same – “The Lord was with him…”**

**Genesis 39:21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love (faithful love) and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. 23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.**

* **Sometimes you just need to learn to bloom where you’re planted.**

**He did his best, honored God, and served faithfully- God promoted him. Seems like things are getting better… but then Plot Twist**

**Genesis 40:1 Sometime later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt.**

* **Tossed in prison, Joseph was assigned to watch them.**
* **After some time, they both had a dream on the same night.**

**Genesis 40:6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh’s officials who were in custody with him in his master’s house, “Why do you look so sad today?”**

**Notice Joe’s deep care for others even in his own prison**

**8 “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.”**

* **Sometimes God places us with the hurting to be his hands/ voice**

**Any title or position we have is used to serve others.**

**All the gifts and abilities we have are to serve God and others**

**If you are a follower of Jesus – this is what your life is about. Joe was willing for God to either take him from Egypt or use him in Egypt. Are you?**

**\*\* Chief cupbearer dream – Vine with three branches blossomed and produced grapes. I squeezed them into a cup for the pharaoh.**

**Joseph interprets - Be encouraged - within three days you will be restored as pharaoh cupbearer.**

**Gen 40:14 But when all goes well with you, remember me (powerful phrase) and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15 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.” (The other guy – my turn, my turn!)**

**\*\* Chief baker dream– three baskets on my head with baked goods – the birds were eating out of the basket set on my head.**

**Joseph interprets - Within three days… your head will be cut off & body impaled on a pole - birds will eat away at your flesh.**

* **Sometimes the truth is not always something one wants to hear**

**Joe lovingly gave the truth – even when it was hard to hear.**

**\*\*\* And in three days they both happened! \*\*\***

**(Great he will get out when the cupbearer tells people) Genesis 40:23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.**

**Left in prison and forgotten, do you ever feel forgotten? I do. You’ve prayed and nothing… and hear from God then nothing.**

**Days turn into months turn into years.**

* **Sometimes the good we do will go unrewarded.**

**Joe thought he might die there, but God had another purpose.**

**Genesis 41:1 When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream…**

**\*\* Pharaoh’s dream 1- standing in the Nile River, out of the river came 7 fat cows and grazed – then 7 scrawny cows ate the 7 fat cows.**

**\*\* Pharaoh’s dream 2- 7 healthy heads of grain sprung up – then 7 thin heads of grain – the thin grains swallowed the healthy grain.**

**Pharoah could not find anyone to interpret his dreams – His pagan shamans could not help him. (v8)**

**The fake spirituality of the world has no real answers!**

**Life’s answers are found in the LORD, not the world**

**It was at this moment that the cupbearer remembered Joseph (Finely!)**

**He told the Pharaoh that when he was in prison a young Hebrew man there was able to interpret our dreams – and they came true!!**

**Genesis 41:14 So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, (funny detail) he came before Pharaoh. 15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” 16 “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”**

**One the great responses in the Bible, “I cannot - but God will.”**

**He did not use his gift to self-promote and build his ministry.**

**It was never about himself. But everything he did was God’s glory!**

**Pharoah then tells Joseph the dreams -**

**dream 1 – 7 scrawny cows eat the 7 fat cows – but still thin.**

**dream 2 – 7 thin heads of grain swallowed 7 healthy grains.**

**Genesis 41:25 Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. (a glimpse of the future) 26 The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream. 27 The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by the east wind: They are seven years of famine. 28 “It is just as I said to Pharaoh: God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. (7 yrs of abundance followed by 7 yrs of famine that will ravage the land) 32 The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.**

**Joseph then says – you need to appoint a wise and discerning person to prepare for this. To ration portions and store up for 7 years a reserve – to use during the famine.**

**Joseph’s like, “I might know a guy…”**

**Genesis 41:37 The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials. 38 So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” (Elohim) 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God (Elohim) has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.” (Right hand)**

**Plot Twist – the ups and downs - From the sheep pin (up) – to the pit (down) – to the house of Potiphar (up) – to the prison (down) –to the palace (up) – to prime minister! Where was God? Right there – all along.**

**Genesis 41:41 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.” (position) 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph’s finger. (authority) He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. (prison chain replaced with a gold chain) 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, (once a slave walking beside – now travels in style) and people shouted before him, “Make way!” (Once shouted at to obey – now he gives the orders) Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. (V46 says this happened when he was 30 yrs)**

**He is given new name Zaphenath-Paneah - Egyptian tradition says each letter has meaning, “revealer, redeemer, prophet, support, wise.”**

**The literal meaning of the name is – God speaks – he lives! (God says he lives!) = Jesus God’s word becomes flesh and lives again!**

**He is given a wife (a gentile named after a pagan deity), who become a daughter of promise – thru her groom Joseph. Much like us the bride of Christ – the lost are saved.**

**He got his freedom, his dream job, his home, his one wife, kids - he had it all. Everything he thought he would never have.**

**Genesis 41:50 Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. (btw – he had only one wife) 51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh (means forgetful) and said, “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” 52 The second son he named Ephraim (means fruitful) and said, “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.”**

**This was not about forgetting his family and their life but to forget the pain of his family – it means healing from the past.**

**In the face of suffering and heartache God has allowed me to move on from my past and give me a new future! (This can be yours too)**

**Isiah 43:18 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.**

**Philippians 3:13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 4 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**

**2 Cor 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**

**He dreamed of the future at 17 - stepped into part of that dream at 30 = 13 yrs waiting (same as apostle Paul btw) God’s delays are not denials.**

**There will be times when it feels like your life is derailed - in the waiting room of life. When it seems like your wheels are spinning. When you have disappointments – feel forgotten.**

**While You Wait - What we can learn from Joe: No Matter what…**

1. **Honor God - He understood God is the God of the mountain as well as God of the valley. Joe actively sought ways to glorify. He knew God gave him a gift, but he never used it to glorify himself!**
2. **Serve faithfully - Joe did everything as unto God himself – faithfully. He learned to find joy in the prison. How? By doing everything unto the Lord.**
3. **Love others – Joseph never allowed himself to be consumed with bitterness, anger with God or others - or shut down emotionally.**

**\*\* He had an authentic care for others. He was intentional about his care for others looking for ways to serve them.**

**He - Intentionally asked and listened to the heart of others. He was not disgruntled - he kept loving people.**

**\* There is great purpose in loving and serving others!!**

1. **Always speak the truth – even when it is hard to hear. Always loving and always truthful. Eph 4:15 – speak the truth in love.**
2. **Don’t compromise – Joseph never compromised his faith or values. Never bowed to the pressure of his culture.**

**We tend to give in to temptation when feeling beat – but while he waited on God – he learned to wait with God.**

**God was preparing him for a great launch – a great purpose – but it all began with faithfulness.**

**We got our own waiting story – God’s vision for the Vive coffee was in 2009, we moved in 8 yrs later and the coffee shop – 10yrs. God is never late – his time serves his purpose for his glory.**

**That waiting and suffering of Joseph was for the purpose of saving the world. That was the plan all along - that thru Joseph the world is saved.**

**Those years in Potiphar’s house - the years in the prison big house – God was preparing him for something big!**

**All those God uses greatly, He first prepares greatly, unfortunately few are willing to endure the greatness of God’s preparation.**

**BUT - This is still not the fulfillment of his dream at 17 – of the future.**

**The Biggest Plot Twist is yet to come.**

**Like Jesus – Joseph - Yosef (God will increase / repeat)**

**Each week we get more of the gospel of Jesus in the story of Joseph**

* **Like Jesus – was a messenger sent from God**
* **Like Jesus - was despised, rejected suffered though innocent**
* **Like Jesus - was the guidance to their salvation**
* **Like Jesus - speaks the absolute truth of the future**
* **Like Jesus - provides a way to provide lifesaving bread**
* **Like Jesus - began the work of salvation at 30 yrs old.**
* **Like Jesus - was exalted and enthroned (right hand of pharaoh)**
* **Like Joseph & wife – we the lost are made people of promise through the groom Jesus.**
* **Like Jesus – Joseph saved the world**

**Joseph points to the true savior – JESUS – Do you know him?**

**(Next week)**

**Pick up next week at verse 53**

**From the pin, to the pit, to Potiphar, to prison (down) – to the place (up) – and now to prime minister!**

**The next 8 chapters deal one primary event – incredible detail.**

**7yrs – number of perfection and completion**

**A TOUCH LAMP - serves it purpose but not it’s primary purpose unless it is plugged in to the right power source – then once it is touched it comes to life and functions the way it was created to – are you plugged in to this power source – The power can kill or supply it is all how it’s handled…**

**NAME TAGS - Hand out name tags – we are all on the same level – God can use you – I am not more eligible than you are – we are a name ready to be called – why Joe and not one of his other brothers…**