

THINGS UNSEEN

Joseph's Moment to Shine

Genesis 41

Pastor Daniel Hahn

May 25/26, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES

It seems like every important thing in life comes only after a period of waiting. ... The waiting isn't wasted time. ... Waiting reminds us that we are not powerful enough to make things happen. — M Craig Barnes, Sacred Trust

Beyond Joseph's wildest imagination ...

1. The Pharaoh has two dreams.
2. The cupbearer has a recollection.
3. The prisoner has an audience.

The wilderness strips away every ambition, every accomplishment, every ability of the flesh to achieve, every sinful habit of the heart, until nothing remains but a desperate craving hunger for the presence of Jesus. ... The wilderness revealed God to me and set my hunger in order. ... I carry a bit of that wilderness all the time. ... It reminds me who I am and teaches me wisdom.

— R. Loren Sandford, *Renewal for the Wounded Warrior*

4. The self-promoter has a changed perspective.

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. — Ephesians 5:15 – 17

5. The sovereignty of God has center stage.

What Joseph's story is teaching us ...

- Be faithful when you feel like nothing is happening. More is happening than you know.
- Be fruitful wherever you are with whatever you have. God can use the smallest things in the biggest ways.
- Be humble when God opens doors of opportunity. It is only His work through you that matters in the end.

God wants you to get where God wants you to go more than you want to get where God wants you to go. So take a deep breath, enjoy the journey, and know that God will get you there when you're ready to get there. Your current frustration will be cause for future celebration if you hang in there long enough. Don't give up! God is building emotional endurance. And the key to emotional endurance is experiencing high levels of disappointment that break us down so God can build us back up with a holy confidence. Anytime I feel stretched emotionally, I remind myself that God is expanding my emotional capacity to be used by Him in greater ways. — Mark Batterson, Soul Print

What our story is teaching us ...

- How have you seen God work in ways you never would have dreamed?
- How has he woven together seemingly random people and events to bring things about?
- How have you been humbled by time and experience?
- How has God given you platforms to honor Him in front of others?
- How is your life a story of God's provision even through difficulties?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you think Joseph's character was refined by over two years in prison?
- When he had an opportunity to speak to the most powerful man on earth (humanly speaking) how did he respond (Genesis 41:15 – 16)?
- Daniel ended the sermon this weekend by posing 5 questions about our own experience with suffering. Take some time in your group to respond to those questions:
 - 1) How have you seen God work in ways you never would have dreamed?
 - 2) How has he woven together seemingly random people and events to bring things about?
 - 3) How have you been humbled by time and experience?
 - 4) How has God given you platforms to honor Him in front of others?
 - 5) How is your life a story of God's provision even through difficulties?
- What sort of perspective shifts would you like to work on this week in light of all we're learning?