

Inside Cover Message

I searched the Bible to find a person who completely personified the process of God's will in their life. I also wanted to choose a person of deep integrity and one who had courageous convictions. A person we could all identify with and at the same time we could all admire him for his character. Through tragedy, trials and triumph we see Joseph's faith shine brighter and brighter. With each challenge he faced, his veracity would grow stronger and his commitment would grow deeper. Are you looking for a person's life that is worth emulation? Then Joseph is that person. To have the courage to stand alone with a single-minded vision amidst a slippery ever-eroding culture, Joseph gives us fresh insight on how to live in a culture much like ours. My prayer is that during this series of sermons you will find fresh and innovative knowledge that will encourage your walk with Christ.

God's Will: Dreaming the Dream Sermon #1

Genesis 37:5-11*(V.5) And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. (V.6) And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: (V.7) For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. (V.8) And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. (V.9) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. (V.10) And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? (V.11) And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.*

God would give Joseph a dream in a family filled with anger, jealousy and deceit.

Genesis 29:30-31*And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. (V.31) And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren.*

Genesis 35:17-19

Rachel died at Benjamin's birth. Joseph would be raised by a stepmother who was jealous of his mother.

Genesis 34:2

Joseph's sister was raped and Jacob was worried about his standing in the community.

Genesis 34:30-31*And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I being few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house. (V.31) And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?*

Gen 37:4 . . . *all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.*

I. The expectation of the will of God. (V.5-6)

A. We can expect God to have a will for our life.

Genesis 37:5*And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.*

John 15:16*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

B. We can expect God to handle the warfare of our life.

Genesis 37:6 *And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:* (Doesn't it amaze you that their jealousy didn't affect Joseph? He was determined! God has us to fight different wars different ways! Some are fought by turning the other cheek! Some are fought by waiting!)

II. The explanation of the will of God.(V.7-9)

“When President Teddy Roosevelt was running for office, a madman once took a shot at him. A steel glasses case, which the president kept in his breast pocket, deflected the bullet and saved his life. The ironic thing was He hated the glasses case.” *History Channel*

A. He explained how he fit into God's will.

Genesis 37:7 *For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright;*

Genesis 37:9*And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.* (Joseph's dream made perfect sense to him but it didn't set very well with any of his brothers.)

B. He explained how his family fit into God's will.

Genesis 37:7 *. . . and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.*

Genesis 37:9*And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.*

Joseph was a spoiled rich kid and when it came to the social graces he didn't have a verbal filter.
Dr. Hampton Drum

Joseph's perception of God's will would need to change to match God's perception.

We want to major on the position, God wants us to major on the process.

We want to major on the popularity, God wants us to major on the people.

We want to major on the success, God wants us to major on the service.

We want to major on the outcome, God wants us to major on the outlook.

We want to major on what we will gain, God wants us to major on what we will give.

We want to major on what is most beneficial, God wants us to major on what is most benevolent.

We want to major on how it affects us, God wants us to major on how it will affect others.

We want to major on our point of view, God wants us to major on His point of view.

Sometimes we want to look at our future to determine our immediate position. God wants us to concentrate on our immediate integrity so it can grow into a great future.

III. The enemies of the will of God. (V.10-11)

A. People's reservations about us can be an enemy to God's will.

Genesis 37:10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

B. People's resentment toward us can be an enemy to God's will.

Genesis 37:11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Genesis 37:19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

Song of Solomon 8:6 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death: jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame. (It is enough to make you lose hope in your dreams; no encouragement, no agreement, and no understanding.)

God's Will: You Can't Get There From Here!
Sermon #2

Genesis 37:12-36

Abraham: God promised to make of him a great nation but to do so he had to leave his hometown. (Age 75)

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:(V.2) And I will make of thee a great nation,

Moses at age 80: God spoke to him from a burning bush. Why did God not speak to Moses when he was 40 and was still connected to the jet-setters of Egypt?

Exodus 3:10

Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

I. God's sifting: moving us to a place that will align us to His will.

Joseph learned how flexible, versatile and adaptable he could be.

A. Joseph was taken out of his comfortable setting.

Genesis 37:23-26

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; (V.24) And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. (V.25) And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. (V.26) And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

What would Joseph's brothers say later about this moment?

Genesis 42:21

And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

Normal life defining moments never come while sitting comfortably at home in your recliner. Life defining moments often come in the middle of or just in the aftermath of a crisis.

B. Joseph was tossed into the company of strangers.

Genesis 37:28

Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

What can culture shock do for a person?

- *A fresh look at a harsh world can make you see Godly values in a new light.
- *The brutal treatment of rude people can make you appreciate a loving home.
- *The pain of believing the deception of a lying world can make you appreciate loving truth.

II. God's seclusion: moving us to a place of abandonment to His will.

This would feel to Joseph like the worst day of his life: betrayed by his brothers, realizing that they desired to kill him, sold as a common slave and believing that he would never see his father again.

A. God often puts us in a place from which we cannot retreat.

Genesis 39:1

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

God often changes your environment in order to change you.

- *Joseph was too caught up in being his father's son to be God's servant.
- *Joseph's environment had taught him to be a taker but God would teach him to be a giver.
- *God had to change some things in Joseph's life before he could embrace God's will. (His priorities, his attitude, his mind set and his value system.)
- *God had to develop some important characteristics in Joseph in order for him to fulfill God's will. (Discernment, patience, selflessness, tolerance, perseverance and endurance)

B. God often pulls away the people who would rescue us.

Genesis 37:31-33

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; (V.32) And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. (V.33) And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

III. God's school: moving us to a place of comprehending His will.

Before he could become a king he had to know what it was like to be a servant: to teach him wisdom, insight and sympathy.

A. In God's school, He gives us a new point of view.

Genesis 39:2

. . . and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

Joseph experienced what it was like to become a position instead of a person.

God often cures our character flaws by disrupting our lives

*Joseph's new environment would force him to think for himself, to be resourceful, innovative and conscious of his surroundings.

*Joseph would be moved out of his comfort zone. Now the only comfort he would enjoy would be that which he created for himself; no one to pamper him, to take up for him or to cover for his mistakes.

*Joseph would have to stretch himself to meet the demands that would be placed upon him.

*Joseph would have to learn to put into practice his father's faith: develop the practice of prayer and learn the pathway of scripture.

Prodigal Son Lost:

Luke 15:17-19

And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!(V.18) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, (V.19) And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

B. In God's school, He gives us a new purpose to value.

Genesis 37:36

. . . Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Genesis 39:4

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

God's Will: Closed Door, Open Door
Sermon #3

Genesis 39:1-5

“Remember, God doesn't close one door without getting ready to open another with bigger and greater things.”
Author Unknown

“Some doors that God doesn't open for you is nothing more than divine protection. And others, the timing just isn't right yet. Trust Him.”
InstaGod.org

“Sometime God closes all doors and shuts all the windows during those times, think that maybe there is a STORM outside and He wants you safe.”
4SMS.Com

I. The challenge that strengthened the life of Joseph. (V.1-2)

A. He faced the challenge of new surroundings.

Genesis 39:2

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.(No one to give him credibility. No one to speak for him, do for him. Joseph had to stand on his own and be the man God had called him to be.)

B. He faced the challenge of new situations. (V.2)

Joseph was admired for different reasons.

Genesis 39:3

And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.(Once the son, now the servant. Once the receiver; but, now the producer.)

II. The character that surfaced in the life of Joseph. (V.4-6)

A. The greater the challenge the deeper his credibility grew.

Genesis 39:4

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

The Test of Prosperity:

Prominence- Favored in his master's sight

Position- Overseer of his master's house

Power- He left all that he had in Joseph's hands.

Popularity-The Lord made all that he did prosper.

Physique- Attractive in form and appearance

B. The greater the challenge the deeper his character grew.

Genesis 39:5-6

And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. (V.6) And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

III. The collapse of the success in the life of Joseph. (V.7-16)

“Our situations didn’t create us; they simply reveal who we are.”

David Jeremiah

A. The collapse of his success gave evidence of Joseph’s purity.

Genesis 39:7-8

And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. (V.8) But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

The Test of Purity:

- It was an unexpected temptation. It came at a time when Joseph was at the peak of success.
- It was a sustained temptation. Potiphar’s wife was relentless in her pursuit of him.
- It was a secret temptation. Nobody else would know because it would probably mean death for her.
- It was a sensible temptation. We don’t succumb to sin because we think it will hurt us but because we believe it will give us pleasure.

B. The collapse of his success gave evidence of Joseph’s priorities.

“The sin of immorality is not one we are instructed to fight. It is one we have been told to flee. Run from that compromising situation. Saturate that place with your absence.” *Adrian Rogers*

Genesis 39:9-15

There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? (V.10) And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. (V.11) And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. (V.12) And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. (V.13) And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, (V.14) That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: (V.15) And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

He could have said that at this point all that my life will ever be will be full of disappointment and betrayal; but he didn't.

Hampton Drum

God's Will: Detours and Delays Sermon #4

Genesis 40:1-5

What did this detour reveal about Joseph's character?

- He interpreted his situation in light of his morals rather than interpreting his morals in light of his situation.
- Joseph's choice to do right was not changed by the threat of going to prison.
- Joseph did right because God had called him to do right regardless of the outcome. In short, Joseph would rather go to prison serving God than to prosper in Potiphar's house in disobedience.

Genesis 39:21-22

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (V.22) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

I. Our detours are often a promoter of greater perception.

God was preparing Joseph to stand in the court of the Egyptian king. What better way to do this than to spend time with those who had shared private moments with Pharaoh?

A. His detour gave him a greater perception of the plight of the people.

Genesis 40:2-4

And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. (V.3) And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. (V.4) And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.

“Just because something doesn't make sense to you does not mean it doesn't make sense.”

Adrian Rogers

B. His detour gave him a greater perception of his own purpose.

Genesis 40:5-8

And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison. (V.6) And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad. (V.7) And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day? (V.8) And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

II. Our detours are often a preparation for a greater purpose.

“Reputation is what others think we are; character is what God knows we really are. Reputation is chiseled on our tombstones, but character is what the angels say about us before the throne of God.”
David Jeremiah

A. God was grooming him to face the future.

Genesis 40:12-13

And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days: (V.13) Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

Genesis 40:16-18

When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: (V.17) And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. (V.18) And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days:

B. God was grooming him to have the foresight of faith.(V.19-23)

Genesis 40:19-22

Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee. (V.20) And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. (V.21) And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: (V.22) But he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them.

He was known as a dreamer. But it could have been that God wanted him to dream bigger and reach higher. He would now have to depend on his faith as never before, not only for himself

but for a whole nation.

III. Our detours are often a prelude to greater possibilities.

What treasure do we learn about the value of remaining faithful?

- ❖ Perspective comes from seeing God in every situation. The one constant thing in Joseph's life was, "the Lord was with Joseph".
- ❖ Present detours often prepare us for future positions.
- ❖ Righteousness is not always immediately rewarded, but when it comes, it comes without the baggage of regret.
- ❖ Character, when it is revealed as genuine, makes deep impressions that are remembered for years to come.

A. His detour placed him in the path of God's providence.

Genesis 41:12-13

And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret. (V.13) And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

B. His detour provided the possibility for a greater purpose.

Genesis 41:38-39

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? (V.39) And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

God's Will: The Dream Comes True!
Sermon #5

Genesis 41:8-12

Genesis 41:15-16

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. (V.16) And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace

I. The fulfilling purpose in Joseph's dream came true. (V. 39-57)

A. The personal responsibility in which Joseph found fulfillment.

Genesis 41:39-40

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: (V.40) Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Genesis 41:42

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

“The Pharaoh who ruled Egypt at the time of Joseph showed remarkable wisdom and insight, as well as a heart receptive to truth.”
John Maxwell

B. The provision of rations in which Joseph found fulfillment.

Gen 41:47-48

And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. (V.48) And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

Gen 41:54-57

And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. (V.55) And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do. (V.56) And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. (V.57) And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

II. The faithful promise in Joseph's dream came true.

A. There was the faithful promise in the presence of God.

Potiphar's House:

Genesis 39:2

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

In Prison:

Genesis 39: 21

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

B. There was the faithful promise in the providence of God.

Genesis 41:39

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art;

Genesis 41:51-52

And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all father's house. (V.52) And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

How had Joseph changed from the time of his dream's conception until its fulfillment?

- Before he was ego driven, now he would be compassion driven.
- Before his dream, he was looking down on people. Now through his dream, he was picking them up.
- Before he was a messenger boy, now his message would receive top priority.
- Before his views were laughable, now his views were admired and honored.
- Before he was viewed as expendable, now he was viewed as irreplaceable.

III. The fulfilled prophecy in Joseph's dream comes true.

Joseph's victory became God's victory because Joseph acknowledged God as his sole source of strength.

Hampton Drum

A. The premise of Joseph's dream comes true.

Genesis 44:14

And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

B. The profit of Joseph's dream was fabulous.

He had unity and love with his family that he had never known before. He received appreciation and acceptance like he had never experienced before.

Genesis 45:1

The Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

“In the process, God can take something that from a human perspective seems totally evil and ugly, and He can somehow work it into the beautiful tapestry of His will.” *David Jeremiah*

Genesis 45:5

Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Genesis 50:20

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.