

Joseph the Ruler: Faithful Service Rewarded

Sunday, August 2/20 --- Genesis 41

Joseph answered Pharaoh, 'It is not in me (to interpret dreams); God will give Pharaoh a favourable answer... The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what He is about to do... And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about. – Genesis 41:16, 25, 32

Wisdom is proved right by her deeds. – Jesus (Luke 7:35)

If you be faithful, you will have honour that comes from God: his Spirit will say in your hearts - Well done, good and faithful servant. – Adam Clarke

Sermon Outline:

Introduction: The Importance of Dreams, the Nile River, Cows and Grain

1. Joseph: A Reminder of Adam

2. Joseph: A Foreshadow of Christ

3. Joseph: An Example of Wisdom applied in Faithful Service

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Have you ever woken troubled by a dream? Why was it so disturbing? Why was this dream so disturbing to Pharaoh, the Ruler of Egypt?
- ii. Do you think the author of Genesis (Moses) intended that the first readers (Israel) understood the link between Joseph and Adam? Why? Or why not? What does it serve?
- iii. How does Joseph fulfill the role of being a 'type' or foreshadowing of Jesus Christ?
- iv. How does the theme of wisdom show itself? How does 'good' and 'evil' factor into this theme, especially as it relates to living our lives as faithful stewards under God?
- v. What has God entrusted you with? How does Joseph's life encourage you to be faithful?