

Excellence or Excuses #5
Excellence with Opportunity
Genesis 41

I. Review

II. Scripture reading Genesis 41:1-32

III. The value of waiting 40:23, 41:1

²³ *The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. ¹When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream:*

Joseph waited for **TWO YEARS** in the prison.

Delay in our lives constructs **CHARACTER**

Delays in life train us to **TRUST GOD**

Delays in life cause us to **DEVELOP DEPENDENCY**

This all adds up to a virtue that few of us are anxious to develop – **PATIENCE**

IV. Another dream – different result - 41:2-8

² *when out of the river there came up seven cows, sleek and fat, and they grazed among the reeds. ³After them, seven other cows, ugly and gaunt, came up out of the Nile and stood beside those on the riverbank. ⁴And the cows that were ugly and gaunt ate up the seven sleek, fat cows. Then Pharaoh woke up.*

⁵ *He fell asleep again and had a second dream: Seven heads of grain, healthy and good, were growing on a single stalk. ⁶After them, seven other heads of grain sprouted—thin and scorched by the east wind. ⁷The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy, full heads. Then Pharaoh woke up; it had been a dream.*

⁸ *In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.*

Excellence or Excuses?

Bad **EXPERIENCES** with dreams:

1. He had a bad experience with his **OWN DREAM**
2. He had a bad experience with the **CUPBEARER'S DREAM**
3. Now the **PHARAOH** had a dream.

What kind of trouble would / could this bring?

V. Opportunity Knocks for Joseph – 41:33-40

³³ “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. ³⁵ They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. ³⁶ This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.” 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?” ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God 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.”

1. Joseph has **PREPARED** himself for this opportunity.
2. Joseph’s ideas broke what was considered **NORMAL**.
3. With **BOLDNESS** Joseph names the **QUALIFICATIONS**.
verses 34-36

³⁴ Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. ³⁵ They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. ³⁶ This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

4. Pharaoh’s **RESPONSE** - 41:38-39
³⁸ So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?” ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you.

VI. Excellence or Excuses

1. Excellence was proven in Joseph’s state of **PREPAREDNESS**
2. He was ready to **HEAR** from God
3. He was ready to **SPEAK** for God
4. He was able to **RECOGNIZE** opportunity

How do you know the difference between opportunity and just another circumstance in life?

Three Lights:

1. What is God **SAYING** to me?
2. What does the **BIBLE** say?
3. **CIRCUMSTANCES** and **SITUATIONS**