

Series: Standfast In the Lord

WHEN GOD WORKS ON THE OTHER END GENESIS 41

Text:

Introduction:

We often have an easier time believing that God can work in us than believing He can work in the lives those for whom we are concerned.

We need to realize that God works on both ends.

While Joseph was in prison, God was working on his behalf in the palace of Pharaoh.

Read the verses Genesis 41:1-14

Genesis 41:1-14

¹ And it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

² And, behold, there came up out of the river seven well favoured kine and fatfleshed; and they fed in a meadow. ³ And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill favoured and leanfleshed; and stood by the other kine upon the brink of the river.

⁴ And the ill favoured and leanfleshed kine did eat up

the seven well favoured and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke. ⁵ And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good. ⁶ And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them. ⁷ And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. ⁸ And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh. ⁹ Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day: ¹⁰ Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker: ¹¹ And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream. ¹² 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. ¹³ And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged. ¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

The Bible says in verse one that at the end of two full years, Pharaoh dreamed a dream.

Two full years had passed since Joseph had been falsely accused and placed in the king's prison.

In prison, he met Pharaoh's butler and baker.

Joseph was enabled by God to interpret their dreams.

The butler promised to remember Joseph, but after two years it seemed as if he was forgotten.

No doubt God worked in Joseph's heart during this time of loneliness.

He had to trust God and find comfort in Him.

But we need to understand that God also worked on the other end as well.

Never forget that the Lord is at work in the lives of people.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. GOD DESERVES TO BE HONORED

In this story we learn that God deserves to be honored.

God's Word says in 1 Samuel 2:30:

1 Samuel 2:30

*³⁰ Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for **them that honour me I will honour,** and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*

Even when Joseph was in prison, he was true to the Lord and honored God.

Everything seemed to have gone wrong, but Joseph realized that the Lord deserves to be honored.

When we think about God and that He is, He certainly deserves to be honored.

He is eternal, almighty, omniscient, and omnipresent.

He is not only here with us, He is everywhere at the same time.

If this is true, and if God can work here on our end, He can also work on the other end.

If we honor God, He will honor us.

Our confidence must not be in ourselves, but in the secret place of our lives where we have chosen to honor God and believe He will keep His Word.

Not only do we understand that God deserves honor but also we see that:

2. GOD SPEAKS TO MEN

As we look at this story, we realize also that God speaks to men.

Notice what the Bible says in Isaiah 45:18-23:

Isaiah 45:18-23

¹⁸ For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. ¹⁹ I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. ²⁰ Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. ²¹ Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. ²² Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. ²³ I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not

return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

God speaks to people.

Understand today:

- God Speaks Through His Word
- God Speaks Through His Spirit
- God Speaks Through Other Christians
- God Speaks Through Circumstances

Through a dream, God stirred Pharaoh and also prodded the memory of the butler.

God spoke to those men and dealt with them.

Joseph was called from prison into the royal court of Pharaoh.

Understand:

You can get on your knees and talk to God about someone, and God can speak to that person on the other end.

God speaks to us, and He will speak to others.

He works on the other end also.

In this story we see that God Deserves the Be Honored and that God Speaks to People.

Note lastly:

3. GOD DOES WHAT IS RIGHT AT THE RIGHT TIME

We see in the life of Joseph that God does what is right at the right time.

When Pharaoh had a burden and his heart was troubled, then God worked on the memory of the butler to mention Joseph the Pharaoh.

God brought Joseph forth at just the right time and made him ruler over all Egypt.

God brought Joseph from prison and placed him in the palace.

We spend much of our live trying to get things from God before we are ready to receive them.

We must believe that God will do right in His time.

Close:

Understand God Deserves to be Honored.

God still speaks to people.

God Does What is Right at the Right Time.

Think how many people have come to the Lord because someone prayed and God worked on the other end and they came to Christ.

Think what God can do when He is ready to do it.