

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 6th November 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns Ps 145v1-6, 9-12 2nd Version, Tune in Christ alone, 370, 383, 204v1-2.

Read: Genesis 40:9-23 Text Genesis 40:9-41:1-14

Series: Joseph (36) Title: Joseph a Forgotten Man.

In **Genesis chapters 40-41**, both the Butler and Baker dreamed dreams, but there was no interpreter, and for that reason they did not understand God's message in the dream.

However, God had placed Joseph in prison for such a time as this. Joseph drew near to these men, and when they told him their dreams, Joseph interpreted the message by the help of God who gave the dreams.

The message was one of life and death, one of restoration and damnation. **Genesis 40:20-22** proved that the message Joseph delivered was carried out as Joseph said, his words were faithful and true.

The Butler lived and was restored to serve Pharaoh, whereas the Baker died.

But our thoughts today centre upon the words at the end of **verse 23** *yet did not the chief Butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

When Joseph interpreted the Butlers dream and told him that he would live, Joseph said in **verse 14** *...think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee unto me and make mention of me unto Pharaoh and bring me out of this house.*

The phrase **well with thee**, means **good, pleasant, cheerful and merry**.

Joseph speaks of the time when the Butler will be delivered from prison, and serving Pharaoh, **when it shall be well with thee**, when it pleasant, good and merry with you, to be out of dungeon, restored, pardoned from the offence committed.

When you stand before Pharaoh and you serve him, **think on me**.

In fact the words **think on me** and **make mention of me**, are the same word in the Hebrew language which means **remember**.

Joseph commands the Butler **remember me**. He places upon him a responsibility to fulfil, **remember me**.

In other words, in living remember me.

The same word in the Hebrew was used by the Lord in **Isaiah 62:6** when he commanded the watchmen upon Jerusalem's walls, not only to watch literally to protect, but also spiritually to watch in prayer for God's will to be done on earth in the city and its people, "**ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silent.**"

In other words, remember the LORD, make mention, speak of Him.

This is the force of the Joseph's words to the Butler, think on me, make mention of me, remember me, when free from the dungeon, living new life.

However, after three days as Joseph had interpreted, the Butler was restored, we read in **verse 23** **yet did not the chief Butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

But two years later in **Ch 41**, the Butler said to Pharaoh in **Ch 41:10** ***I do remember my faults this day***, in other words ***he remembered Joseph***.

You see, God providently worked behind the scenes unknown, unseen and undetected by human mind. He moved in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

He sent a message to Pharaoh during his dream, which also needed interpretation.

It was then, that the Butler remembered Joseph had interpreted his dream, the message of God.

This caused him again to make mention of Joseph.

There is a lesson for our hearts believer as we think upon Joseph and lift our minds heavenward to think on Christ.

Having offended, God, we are by nature and practice guilty of sin, deserving of eternal death, however we have received a message of life, and we looked to Christ to live.

We have received the gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the Lord's message for who is it well, is to remember Him.

Christ instituted the Lord's supper and He said in **1 Corinthians 11:24-26** ***"this do in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.***

Remember His sinlessness life, His sufferings, sacrifice and substitutionary death, make mention of it to others, remember Him before others.

Now it may be that this butler had become a believer while in prison, but even if he had not come to know Joseph's God, he

certainly provides an example of the fact that among those who have come to know the Greater Joseph, at times we fail to remember Him.

May this message be a means for us once again to think of our blessed redeemer.

I FIRST THE BUTLERS CIRCUMSTANCE

Genesis 40:20 highlight that it was **Pharaoh's birthday**, and during this time, we read in **verse 21** ***he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand.***"

off course this was the fulfilment of Joseph's interpretation.

The Butlers role was the King's cupbearer. Any drink to be given to the King the cupbearer would drink it, encase it was poisoned.

Remember, Nehemiah was the Kings cupbearer.

After being restored, **verse 23** ***yet did not the chief Butler remember Joseph, but forgot him,*** and that was the way things went for two years, until Pharaoh had a numbers of dreams, ***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.***

Why had he not spoken of Joseph until this time. It may have been because of duties, and responsibilities to Pharaoh that he forgot Joseph, there may be other reasons.

When the Butler heard of Pharaoh's situation, he then remembered that he was once like Pharaoh, troubled and in need of someone to interpret the message in the dream.

Pharaoh had turned to false religion, and human wisdom, but they were all exposed to be false and unwise. They had no answer, when it came to God's message.

In their failure, the butler remembered Joseph as the one who had not failed him, essentially recommending him as one who would not fail Pharaoh, the one who could give the answer Pharaoh longed for, giving peace to where there was trouble and unrest.

In **verses 10-13** he recounts what had taken place in the dungeon in terms of his and the Baker's dreams and the outcome.

In **verse 12** he speaks of Joseph as the one who interpreted the dream and the one who can interpret pharaoh's dream. He said ***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.***"

He pointed the way to Joseph, and Immediately Pharaoh called for Joseph.

Men and woman what a lesson that is for our lives.

There are many Pharaohs in our city of London, there are millions in England who are trying meet spiritual necessities, by empty religion. They are now in the same state of mind and heart as you were once in.

People in United Kingdom or any place need the things of God explained to them. They need the gospel of saving and amazing grace made clear to their hearts.

If no one will make mention of our heavenly Joseph, souls lost in sin, will turn to the false religions of this world, to look for answers, but will not receive the scriptural one.

Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:3** ***“if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost***

When the Lord sent Philip to the desert, he seen an Ethiopian Eunuch reading a portion of scripture, which he learned after was Isaiah, and what we have today as **Isaiah 53**. In **Acts 8:30** ***Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readeest? Notice the response in verse 31 “he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.***

Philip explained to him the suffering one who he was reading about was Jesus Christ, the suffering servant of Jehovah, was offered Himself as a sacrifice to God in place of guilty sinners He came to save.

Maybe child of God, you for some time you have forgotten to speak of Christ.

Whatever circumstance you are in, may your heart be stired again to tell others of Jesus serving life, saving love, and sanctifying power.

The Butler pointed the way to Joseph, directing Pharaoh to the right person. Just as the little maid pointed Naaman to the prophet.

Charles Spurgeon used to say ***my theology can be condensed into four words, Jesus died for me.***

Believer the very fact you tell others of Christ, or give out gospel invitations, stating gospel truth, these are a witness for the truth, as they point to Christ.

Little is much when God is in it.

The Butler speaking of Joseph to Pharaoh taught Joseph is the one you need.

II SECOND, THE BUTLERS CONFESSION.

Two years later when the Butler remembered he forgot Joseph, he said to Pharaoh, in **Genesis 41:9** ***"I do remember my faults this day."***

The word **faults** is the word meaning ***sin***. The same word **Fault** is used by David translated by the words **sins**, in **Psalms 51:9** ***"Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities."***

The Butler remember his sins. **But the point to keep in mind is this, his faults or sins are against Joseph.**

His confession is acknowledging that he was guilty of fault, or sin which was forgetting Joseph.

When the Butler met Joseph he was cast into the dungeon with the Baker, as guilty prisoners facing the wages for their offence against Pharaoh.

However, the Butler was given a message from God, **a message of deliverance but it could not be understood until Joseph came and made it clear.**

Therefore, the Butler lived only by the sovereign will of God. He received mercy from the Lord. He was not more deserving than the Baker, in fact he was equally as guilty, as the Baker and fit for judgment.

but God according to His sovereign will, had mercy on whom He had mercy, and left the Baker to face the offence which he deserved and earned.

Having been set free, the Butler had no reason to forget Joseph, the one who did so much for him.

The Butler forgot the one who served him in the dungeon, who drew near in a sad time and gave understanding regarding the word of life.

But after was delivered, Joseph was forgotten.

Now the Butler must humble himself, for he said to Pharaoh in **verse 10**, **Pharaoh was wroth with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house.** He speaks with honestly **Ch 41:10 I do remember my faults this day**,

Therefore, men and woman, we have no reason to forget our heavenly Joseph.

God has chosen us in Him unto salvation before the foundation of the world. It has pleased Him to extend mercy to you, giving you the message of life, pardoning all offences.

We are not chosen because we are more loving, acceptable and deserving, rather, we are equally vile and full of sin, unlovable, unacceptable, and undeserving of God's grace.

But blessed be God for **Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:**

Delivered eternally from sins power, punishment and penalty, and a day is coming when we will be delivered from sins presence.

While we remain on earth, we sin against Him. We daily come short of the glory God, we sin wilfully and we know, we sin in through ignorance and don't even know it, yet it is still sin.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us

We must confess our own faults of forgetfulness. At times we forget Him and wander away. Prone to wander.

We leave our first love, lose sight of the one who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We forget we are underserving of the least of His mercies. We forget He delivered us from the prison house of sin.

John exhorted believers, to confess their sin because the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses from all sin. He said in **1 John 1:9** ***"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

When sin is confessed it is cleansed and cleared by Christ's blood, in order restore Fellowship, revive us again to speak about our Saviour.

Believers confess sin for the purpose of restoration and service, to live the new life

The Sinner must confess sin for purpose of regeneration and salvation, to have new life, deliverance from the punishment that await every one who rejects Christ.

III THIRD THE BUTLERS COMMENDATION.

He is to be commended for though he had forgotten Joseph yet two years later, having remembered him, said in **Ch 41:10** ***I do remember my faults this day, verse 12 there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard***

The Butler couldn't reverse time, but he could confess his faults and seek to honour Joseph onwards. He spoke of Joseph.

His words to Pharaoh were the means of bringing Joseph out of prison.

Believer we must not dwell on past failures, and there is no need, because Christ's doesn't dwell on our past faults.

We can serve today onwards, if you have not spoken of Christ for whatever time, maybe 2 years, the Lord through this message has brought Christ before you, speak of Him again.

Take the banner of the cross, give yourself once again to His cause.

Oh this church ministry needs men and woman serving the Lord, workers, volunteers in different areas of the ministry, as we seek to spread the gospel through London, and further.

God is blessing, God is moving, come let us ourselves to the promotion of His kingdom, and magnify the Saviour's name by pointing others to Christ our Heavenly Joseph.