



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 26



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY TWENTY-SIX

Genesis 41 - 42

The Moment the Pit Was Preparing Him For

Two years. That is how long Joseph waited in prison after the cupbearer forgot him. Two years of doing his job faithfully in a cell. Two years of interpreting dreams correctly and watching nothing change for himself. Two years of not knowing whether the promise in his own dreams from childhood would ever mean anything at all. And then Pharaoh has a dream.

God's timing is never early and never late. It is always exact. The two years in the prison were not wasted time. They were the final rooms of the preparation. And when preparation is complete, one dream from the right person changes everything overnight.

Pharaoh dreams of seven fat cows devoured by seven thin cows. He dreams of seven full heads of grain swallowed by seven thin and scorched heads. He wakes troubled. He calls his magicians and wise men. Not one of them can interpret the dreams. And then - then - the cupbearer remembers.

- It took Pharaoh's crisis to unlock the cupbearer's memory. Sometimes the thing that finally moves people to action on your behalf is not your need - it is their own.

Joseph is brought from the dungeon. He shaves, changes his clothes, and stands before Pharaoh. And the first thing out of his mouth, before a single interpretation, is this:

"I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

- Genesis 41:16

I cannot do it. But God will. Thirteen years of suffering - the pit, the slave market, Potiphar's prison, the forgotten promise of the cupbearer - and Joseph stands before the most powerful man in the world and will not take credit for the gift he carries. The suffering did not make him bitter. It made him clear about the source.

Thirteen years in the making, and Joseph's first words before Pharaoh are about God, not himself. That is what the long formation produces - a person so settled in who God is that power and visibility cannot move them off centre.

Seven years of abundance. Seven years of famine. Find a wise and discerning man and put him in charge of the land. Pharaoh looks at his officials and asks: can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God? And he turns to Joseph and says: since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as wise and discerning as you.

And Joseph - the boy thrown into a pit by his brothers, sold for twenty pieces of silver, falsely accused, imprisoned, forgotten - is

given Pharaoh's signet ring. Dressed in fine linen. A gold chain placed around his neck. Riding in the second chariot. Thirty years old.

What they meant to bury, God meant to raise. The pit was not the end. The prison was not the end. The forgotten promise was not the end. God had a throne room in mind from the beginning, and every painful step was the road that led there.

Joseph gathers grain for seven years until it is beyond measure. He has two sons in Egypt - Manasseh, meaning God has made me forget all my hardship, and Ephraim, meaning God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering. He names his children after what God has done to the pain. He does not pretend the pain did not happen. He names it. And then he names what God did with it.

-You do not have to erase your suffering to testify to your healing. Name both. The hardship and the fruitfulness. That is the full story.

The famine comes. It is severe across all the earth. And people from every country come to Egypt to buy grain - because Joseph had prepared. And among those who come are ten brothers, faces down to the ground, bowing before a man they do not recognise. Joseph recognises them immediately. He remembers his dreams.

He speaks harshly. Accuses them of spying. Puts them in custody for three days. And then he keeps Simeon and sends the others home to bring back Benjamin. As he turns away from them to give instructions, he weeps. He is not performing cruelty. He is testing whether the brothers who sold him have become men who can be trusted with what is coming.

Forgiveness does not require you to be naive. It does not mean pretending that what happened did not happen. Joseph forgave his brothers in his heart before they ever knew who he was. But he needed to know who they had become before he could restore what was broken. Speak this over yourself today:

*What God has been forming in me through the long seasons
is exactly what the next room will require.*

The pit was not the end.

God had a throne room in mind from the beginning.

TOMORROW - Day 27 Genesis 43-45

The brothers return with Benjamin. Joseph can barely hold himself together. And then - in one of the most emotionally overwhelming scenes in all of Scripture - he tells them who he is.

Come back tomorrow.

Day 26 of 365

AFRICAN PRAISE



Filled with joyful songs, uplifting praise and inspiring moments of worship, African praise showcases the unique ways African cultures honors and glorify the creator. Let the drums resound, let every voice be lifted and let every heart rejoice in the goodness of God.

*"Praise Him with tambourine and dancing;
praise Him with strings and pipe" — Psalm 46:10*

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS

6:45AM

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