

Living Water Fellowship

12th Sunday after Pentecost – 31st August 2025

COME TO JESUS

SONG: *Shout to the North*

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Genesis 41:37-52

³⁷ Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh & his officials. ³⁸ So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You will be in charge of my court, & all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

⁴¹ Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand & placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing & hung a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. Wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. ⁴⁴ And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

⁴⁵ Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. ⁴⁶ He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. When Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.

⁴⁷ As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. ⁴⁸ During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt & stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities. ⁴⁹ He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure.

⁵⁰ During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph & his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. ⁵¹ Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles & everyone in my father's family." ⁵² Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

CHILDREN'S TIME:

SONG: *Be Unto Your Name*

FAITH CHAT:

1. Have you ever been recognized or thanked for something for which you couldn't honestly take credit? What was that like?
2. In your vocational life (even the "retired" vocation) how are wisdom & hard work essential in the ways you honour God?

THE MESSAGE: *BEHIND THE SEEN: FROM PRISON TO POSITION*

OFFERING SONG: *Yet Not I But through Christ in Me*

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship Video during Communion: TO THE TABLE (ZACH WILLIAMS)

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

**(Name), † child of God,
The Father uses your life as a witness to his greatness!
-- Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *There is a Redeemer (AT 349)*

SHOW HIS LOVE

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Genesis 41:37-52. What strikes you as you read? What questions come to mind? What do you find most challenging? Why?
2. What does it mean that Pharaoh recognized the "Spirit of God" in Joseph? Pharaoh gave Joseph the authority to prepare Egypt for the upcoming famine. Why did he select Joseph? Beyond interpreting the dreams, what else set Joseph apart from the Pharaoh's other wise men & magicians?
3. How does Joseph's exaltation in this passage contrast against the humiliation he has endured and suffered through during these last thirteen years? Do you think Joseph's assimilation into Egyptian "royalty" is too much & denies his Hebrew heritage, or just right to accomplish the work he is assigned? Why?
4. Does Joseph's eventual exaltation negate the severity of his suffering, or make the actions of those who have caused his suffering less evil? How do we nevertheless see God working in & through Joseph's suffering for good? Share how you understand Romans 8:28 from your own life experience.
5. What other examples in Scripture do you recall where a man was given a new name as a sign of the change in his destiny? (*Think of both Old AND New Testaments*)
6. What do the names Joseph gives his children say about his faith in God's goodness & generosity in the midst of his affliction? What can we learn from Joseph about retaining our faith through times of suffering?
7. Has Joseph truly "forgotten" his troubles & his brothers that caused those troubles? Explain your answer. What might really be at work here?
8. We love "rags to riches" stories, where the underdog triumphs. How is Joseph's story **not really** one of those? What's the difference & why is that important?
9. Joseph doesn't end his service to Pharaoh with interpreting the dreams; he also has hard work ahead of him as Second-in-Command of all the nation's food supply. Why is Wisdom, coupled with hard work, part of the daily calling of a follower of Jesus? What's the added lesson we get from Joseph here?
10. What might God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, or pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

Remember:

*Never live down to your circumstance;
live up to God's dream for his people.*

Continue praying through the week:

**Father prepare me for whatever you require today
and lead me in faith wherever you call me to go.**

In Jesus' Name...Amen.

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