

# Joseph - Finding Who We Are in Christ (Part 5)

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Through Joseph's life we have been on a journey to discover who we are in Christ and understand how we can grow into the person we were meant to be. First, we learned that our identity in Christ is...

- We are wanted by God and have been created to *"add"* to His Kingdom.
- We are highly favored and loved by God
- God has a plan for our lives and wants to fill us with His dreams (purposes)
- It doesn't matter how old you are, God has plans for you. And it doesn't matter how long you have been waiting, you can't give up on the dreams God has put in your heart. Believe what God has said. Hold on to the things the dreams and visions he has planted in you.

Next, we said that there will be times when the enemy wants to strip us of our God given identity and discourage us from fulfilling the purposes for which God created us and to which we have been called. In these times we must hold on to who we are in Christ by...

- Having **HOPE** for better days ahead
- **WALKING** forward in faith one step at a time
- **TRUSTING** that God still has a plan and is still in control
- **PRAISING** God in spite of the pain

Then we talked about how God wants to chisel away at our lives in order to form us into the masterpiece that He created us to be. We said that one of the ways that God does that is to shape us through **SERVANTHOOD**. Servanthood shapes us by...

- Instilling a heart of humility
- Exposing the dangers of pride
- Teaching us the value of hard work
- Shifting our focus from ourselves to others

Last week we saw how living with integrity can affect our Christ given Identity. Integrity means doing what is right...

- Even if it seems very small
- Even when we believe it won't hurt anyone
- Even if we feel we deserve it
- Even when we think no one will know
- Even when we assume we can get away with it
- Even when we feel it is justified
- Even if others don't
- Even if we are falsely accused
- Even if it doesn't seem fair
- Even if the cost is great

Finally, we said that.... **God rewards our integrity**

## Genesis 39:20-40:23

<sup>20</sup> Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

### The Cupbearer and the Baker

**40** Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, <sup>3</sup> and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. <sup>4</sup> The captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, **and he attended them.**

After they had been in custody for some time, <sup>5</sup> each of the two men—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were being held in prison—had a dream the same night, and each dream had a meaning of its own.

<sup>6</sup> When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. <sup>7</sup> So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?"

<sup>8</sup> "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them."<sup>(1)</sup>

**Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."**

<sup>9</sup> So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, "In my dream I saw a vine in front of me, <sup>10</sup> and on the vine were three branches. As soon as it budded, it blossomed, and its clusters ripened into grapes. <sup>11</sup> Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup and put the cup in his hand."

<sup>12</sup> "This is what it means," Joseph said to him. "The three branches are three days."<sup>(2)</sup> <sup>13</sup> Within three days <sup>(3)</sup> Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your position, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand, just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. <sup>14</sup> But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. <sup>15</sup> I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon."

<sup>16</sup> When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I too had a dream: On my head were three baskets of bread. <sup>17</sup> In the top basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating them out of the basket on my head.”

<sup>18</sup> “This is what it means,” Joseph said. “The three baskets are three days. <sup>19</sup> Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head and impale your body on a pole. And the birds will eat away your flesh.”

<sup>20</sup> Now the third day was Pharaoh’s birthday, and he gave a feast for all his officials. He lifted up the heads of the chief cupbearer and the chief baker in the presence of his officials: <sup>21</sup> He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, so that he once again put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand— <sup>22</sup> but he impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had said to them in his interpretation.

**<sup>23</sup> The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.**

## (Part 5) Joseph in Jail - Waiting

Waiting is another tool that God uses to shape us into the person that He wants us to be

### Examples of Waiting

- Abraham waiting for the promise of an heir
- Jacob waiting for the hand of the one he loved
- Saul failed to wait for Samuel to perform the sacrifice
- David waiting for the promise of his kingship to come to pass
- Elijah waited for the drought to be over
- Mary waited for the promised to be fulfilled through her
- The Disciples waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

All of us are going to have to wait at some time or another in our Journey’s with Christ. Sometimes the waiting can be short and at other times it can be long. But what happens on the other side of the waiting is determined to our actions during the time of our waiting. Actions that can help shape or hinder the identity that Christ has for us.

Joseph’s time of waiting has much to teach us about our own times of waiting

### Stay the course

- We try to make things happen (i.e. Abraham with Eliezer and Ishmael)
- We try to pry open the door
- We reinterpret or redefine the plan
- Star Wars Episode IV – A New Hope - "Stay on Target"

## Stay Active

- Keep Moving (we learned this from Joseph earlier) even when you don't know how far you have left to go
- Perhaps Dory said it best in Finding Nemo... *"Hey Mr. Grumpy Gills, When life gets you down you know whatcha gotta do? Just keep swimming, just keep swimming, just keep swimming, swimming, swimming. What do we do, we swim, swim, swim."*
- What if you give up 1 foot from the end zone?
- Death Crawl

## Stay Productive

- Keep Serving
- One more rose
- Waiting time is not wasted time

### Settling in for the Long Haul

When John Grisham got the idea to write his first novel, he was a practicing attorney with a heavy caseload and the full-time obligations of family life.

He had a story that he wanted to tell, but there was no easy way to get it done. He knew he couldn't crank out a novel in a few short weeks, like Stephen King and James Patterson seem to do.

So he decided to do what he could: he would go to the office an hour early each day and write one page.

One page a day. This way, he could finish his first draft in about a year.

And that's how it played out.

The book was called *A Time to Kill*. It found its way to a publisher, became a best-seller, and then a popular movie, and it launched an impressive writing career.

This happened because John Grisham made the intentional choice to settle in for the long haul, focused on doing today what needs to be done.

This means that on the days he didn't feel like writing, he wrote anyway.

And when he wasn't sure what should happen next in the story, he kept on writing.

When countless agents and publishers said "No thanks" to his first round of queries, he continued to write.

He settled in for the long haul.

There's a verse in Proverbs that speaks to this.

*Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty. (Proverbs 21:5)*

It may not seem all that exciting, but if you have any hope of accomplishing what you hope to accomplish, and becoming the person you hope to become, today just might be mainly about plodding along.

That was 36 Novels ago...

- "While I'm waiting, I will serve you"

### While I'm Waiting

[John Waller](#)

I'm waiting  
I'm waiting on You, Lord  
And I am hopeful  
I'm waiting on You, Lord  
Though it is painful  
But patiently, I will wait  
I will move ahead, bold and confident  
Taking every step in obedience

While I'm waiting  
I will serve You  
While I'm waiting  
I will worship  
While I'm waiting  
I will not faint  
I'll be running the race  
Even while I wait

I'm waiting  
I'm waiting on You, Lord  
And I am peaceful  
I'm waiting on You, Lord  
Though it's not easy, no  
But faithfully, I will wait  
Yes, I will wait  
And I will move ahead, bold and confident  
Taking every step in obedience

## While I'm Waiting

[Travis Greene](#)

What my eyes can't see I still believe  
Everything spoken to me  
There's no word that can come back void  
I will trust the report of the Lord

God is not a man that He should lie  
Every need He will supply  
So I will wait, I will not be moved  
I believe, I believe, I will trust in You

While I'm waiting I'm getting stronger  
My faith is rising, and I will run on  
While I'm waiting, I'm lifting up on wings as eagles  
I believe, I will trust in You

## Stay at Peace

Guard against Anxiety, doubt, fear, bitterness, anger, discouragement and depression

- Saul let fear destroy his destiny
- David almost allowed anger to ruin his destiny, but Abigail showed him the mistake he would be making
- Joseph could have allowed his life to be controlled by Anxiety, bitterness, anger, discouragement, doubt, fear and depression, but he didn't even when the cup bearer forgot him on top of everything he had already been through
- Attitude

"Never be afraid to trust and unknown future to a known God." - **Corrie ten Boom**

## Stay Close To God

- Stay close through prayer
- Stay close through the word
- Stay close through worship