



THE ORCHARD

The God Who Is With Us

Genesis 40: 1-41:57

In Our Success

Pastor Tom Yoon

October 4, 2026

Introduction:

- There are many truths we can learn from Genesis 40 and 41.
 - But through this passage, we'll see how we can truly care for others.
 - Even more, our passage will show how we can care for others, even during difficult seasons in our lives.
 - These chapters will help us grow in love.
 - So, as we look at Joseph's life, let's consider how we can honor Jesus Christ by caring for the people God has placed around us.

Point 1:

- First, we can care for others by noticing them.
- After Joseph was put in prison, we're told the cupbearer and the baker were put in prison.
- The cupbearer and baker weren't lowly servants.
 - They were high-ranking officials.
 - They worked directly with Pharaoh.
- And it just so happened, the captain of the guard put Joseph in charge of these men.



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- Then in verse 4, we're told how they were in custody for some time.
 - We don't know exactly how long.
 - But during that time, Joseph got to know these men.
- And then during one night, both the cupbearer and baker had a dream.
 - They felt these weren't ordinary dreams.
 - But they were troubled because they didn't understand what their dreams meant.
- But look at how Joseph cared for these men.
- In verse 6, the Bible says:
 - **"He saw that they were troubled."** Genesis 40:6
 - Joseph noticed how worried they looked.
 - He could see that something was wrong.
 - One Bible teacher writes:
 - "Joseph's eye was open to the people God placed around him." ([LINK](#))
- Even more, Joseph didn't just notice them.
 - He also spoke to them.
 - He asked them:
 - **"Why are your faces downcast today?"** Genesis 40:7
 - He cared enough to ask why they looked so sad.



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- And then, after hearing about their dreams, he even offered to help.
 - He told them how God could interpret their dreams.
 - And he helped them to understand what God was saying.
 - Joseph pointed them to the truth.
- Joseph could have become bitter.
 - He could have become angry at God, and angry at others.
 - He could have stopped caring.
- But, instead of becoming bitter.
 - Joseph continued to care for the people around him.
- I've been reading a book called *Faith for the Curious* by Mark Matlock.
 - It's a book about the spiritual curiosity of people living in the US.
 - The author did a study, and asked people who stopped going to church, why they left.
 - Do you know what the primary reason was?
 - It wasn't because of intellectual objections. (Matlock, 26, *Faith for the Curious*)
 - Rather, most people in the survey said they left, because they were hurt or felt betrayed by others in the church.



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- When we face difficult circumstances.
 - When we feel hurt by others.
 - Our temptation will be to focus on ourselves.
 - To hold on to anger.
 - To become blind to the needs of those around us.
- I don't want to diminish anyone's pain.
 - I know the pain is real.
 - But let's remember, even in painful situations, we can be used by God to care for others.
 - I said this last week, but I think it's worth repeating.
 - God can use our hardest experiences to bring blessing to others.
- And that's what we see in Joseph.
 - He didn't grow cold even though he was hurt.
 - Instead, he grew in compassion.
 - The pain in Joseph's life didn't make his heart grow bitter.
 - It made it grow bigger.
- We may not always understand the hurt in our lives.
 - But let's remember that pain is part of the Christian experience.
 - In fact, many faithful people in the Bible experienced pain.



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- At the same time, what you can't help but notice is how their pain helped them to care for others.
- Isn't that what happened with the Apostle Paul.
 - He was burdened by trials.
 - He was hurt by the church in Corinth.
 - He felt he received the sentence of death.
 - But God carried him through.
 - And listen to what he writes in 2 Corinthians chapter 1.
 - **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."** 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Even Jesus Christ was betrayed and hurt by those around him.
 - He was sold for 30 pieces of silver by one of his twelve disciples.
 - One of his closest disciples denied him, not just once, but three times.
 - And he was crucified and rejected by the very people he came to save.
 - But while we were still his enemies, Jesus died for us.
- And so, as we think about the care that Christ has given to us.



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- This coming week, let's open our eyes and notice the people God has placed in our lives.
- Let's ask them how they are.
- And let's help them in their need.
- How can we truly care for others?
 - By noticing those around us.

Point 2:

- Second, we see in our passage how we can care for others by remembering them.
- Joseph was able to interpret both dreams.
 - The cupbearer was going to be restored in three days, while the baker would be put to death.
- And listen to what Joseph says to the cupbearer in verse 14.
 - **“Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharoah, and so get me out of this house.”** Genesis 40:14
- The Bible doesn't tell us what the cupbearer said to Joseph.
 - But it's not hard to imagine.
 - “Listen Joseph, if you're right on this, I'll make sure to remember you.”



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- “I’ll talk to Pharaoh, and maybe even try to get you a job in the palace.”
- But listen to what happens.
 - This is verses 21 to 23:
 - **“Pharaoh restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand. But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”** Genesis 40:21-23
- Can you imagine the excitement Joseph felt every time he heard the prison doors open?
 - Day after day, he must have waited for someone to free him from prison.
 - But after a week.
 - After a month.
 - After a year.
 - He was still in prison.
 - He was forgotten.
- In fact, we’re told in chapter 41 that he was in prison for two years.
 - Can you imagine how hard it was for Joseph to wait?
 - Especially for this young man in his 20’s?



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- In Joseph's mind, these were years when nothing significant was happening in his life.
- There were no achievements.
- No answer to his prayer for freedom.
- No movement forward.
- In the same way, there will be times in our lives when we won't know what God is doing.
 - When we feel forgotten.
 - When our prayers go unanswered.
 - When others move on, but we feel left behind.
 - When we have more questions than answers.
- But let's remember what the Bible says about waiting on God.
 - Lamentations 3:25 states:
 - **"The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."**
- And even though we may be forgotten by others, let's not forget how God always remembers his people.
 - Genesis 8 verse 1 states:
 - **"But God remembered Noah...and all the livestock that were with him..."** Genesis 8:1
 - Genesis 19 verse 29 says:



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- **“So it was, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham...”** Genesis 19:29
- Exodus 2 verse 24 says:
- **“God heard the groaning of the Israelites and remembered his covenant...”** Exodus 2:24
- When you think about the story of the cupbearer and baker, doesn't it remind you of another story in the New Testament?
- Doesn't it remind you of the two criminals who were crucified next to Jesus Christ?
 - It's not hard to see the parallels between both stories.
 - In both stories, one man was pardoned, while the other was judged.
 - In both stories, one man was given words of hope, while the other man was given words of judgment.
 - In both stories, one man was preparing for the palace, while the other man was preparing for death.
- Furthermore, in our story today, Joseph asked the cupbearer if he would remember him.
 - He says:
 - **“Only remember me, when it is well with you...”**
Genesis 40:14



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- But when Jesus was on the cross, do you remember what one of the criminals said to Jesus?
 - He said to Jesus:
 - **“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”** Luke 23:42
 - And what did Jesus say?
 - **“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”** Luke 23:43
- The Bible doesn’t tell us why, but it’s not hard to imagine why the cupbearer forgot.
 - After reentering Pharaoh’s court.
 - He was probably consumed with his work.
 - He was busy with life.
 - Perhaps he thought it would be too much work to free Joseph from prison.
- But the Bible reminds us, when we pass from this world.
 - We will be with Christ in paradise, because Jesus never forgets his people.
- Listen to what one Bible scholar writes:
 - “Do you see the amazing contrast?”
 - “Joseph says, “Remember me” to the cupbearer, and the cupbearer forgets him.”



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- “The thief says, “Remember me” to Jesus, and Jesus saves him.”
- “Joseph was innocent and the one who held the cup forgot him.”
- “The thief on the cross was guilty and the one who drank the cup remembered him.” ([LINK](#))
- And so, as we think about how Jesus remembers us.
 - Let’s consider the people we need to remember.
 - Let’s remember the person who is hurting.
 - The person who is lonely.
 - The person who needs encouragement.
 - The person who asked you to pray for them.
- As I was thinking about this.
 - I wondered who our family might invite to Thanksgiving dinner.
 - I know it’s still several weeks away.
 - But let’s plan ahead.
 - Because there are people around us who don’t have family in town.
 - They don’t have a place to go.
 - And so, let’s consider who we might invite.
 - Or it may be, if you don’t have family in town, you could invite others who don’t have a place to go.



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- How can we care for others?
 - By remembering them, as Christ remembers us.

Point 3:

- We can care for others by noticing them
 - We can care for others by remembering them.
 - But third, we can care for others by speaking God's truth.
- We're told that Pharaoh had two dreams.
- And when he woke up, his spirit was troubled.
 - Just like the cupbearer and baker, he felt these weren't ordinary dreams.
 - Sadly, he couldn't understand what they meant.
- Bible scholars tell us how the Egyptians believed their gods spoke through dreams.
 - Archeologists even found manuals from ancient Egypt instructing people how to interpret dreams.
 - (Douglas Mangum, Miles Custis, and Wendy Widder, [*Genesis 12–50*](#), Logos Research Commentaries Ge 40:1–23.)
- And so, Pharaoh called all the magicians and wise men of Egypt to interpret his dreams.



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- But none of them could tell him what they meant.
- Can you imagine how troubling this must have been?
 - Pharaoh thought the gods were speaking to him.
 - The ugliest cows he'd ever seen were swallowing all the good-looking cows.
 - What were the gods trying to say?
 - Would his nation be destroyed?
- In fact, I think that's why he brought Joseph up so fast.
 - Joseph suffered for years.
 - But it only took one verse for Joseph to stand before Pharaoh.
 - Listen to chapter 41, verse 14:
 - **"Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh."**
 - Pharaoh was worried about his kingdom.
 - He needed an answer.
 - He was even willing to call on a foreign prisoner for help.
- But when Pharaoh asked Joseph if he could interpret his dreams.
 - Look at what Joseph says in verse 16:



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- **“It is not in me; God will give Pharoah a favorable answer.”**
- We’re not told, but I wonder if the cupbearer was thinking to himself:
 - “Joseph, don’t talk about God.”
 - “Pharoah thinks he’s a god.”
 - “We worship many gods.”
 - “Could you just dial it down on the God stuff?”
- This was Joseph’s chance to shine.
 - This was his time to show Pharoah what he could do.
 - But instead of taking credit.
 - Joseph pointed Pharoah to God.
 - And what God was doing.
 - And what God was revealing.
 - In verse 16, Joseph says:
 - **“God will give Pharoah a favorable answer.”**
 - In verse 25, Joseph states:
 - **“God has revealed to Pharoah what he is about to do.”**
 - In fact, I counted 7 times, Joseph mentions God in chapter 41.
- The Bible is making an important point here.
 - From verses 1 to 15 we see how Pharoah is troubled.
 - I imagine the scholars were concerned as well.



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- The reason they were troubled was because no one knew what God was saying to them.
- God isn't mentioned a single time from verses 1 to 15.
- But when Joseph arrives, he begins speaking about God.
- Even Pharaoh declares the power of God.
 - Pharaoh states in verse 38:
 - **“Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”**
 - Did Pharaoh believe in the God of Jacob?
 - We're not told.
 - But he at least recognized that Joseph's wisdom came from God.
- Before Joseph spoke, Pharaoh was troubled.
 - But after hearing what God revealed, he knew what was coming, and how Egypt could be saved from the famine.
 - God's revelation gave truth, and direction, and hope.
- And isn't this what Jesus did for us as well?
 - We were lost and troubled without God's word.
 - We didn't know the way to the Father.
 - **“But the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”**
John 1:14
 - And why did Jesus become flesh?



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- So, he might make the Father known to us.
- **“No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.”** John 1:18
- The application is this:
 - When troubles come, we need more than our own knowledge and strength.
 - We need God's truth.
 - Because it's God's word that gives us power, and peace, and hope.
- Pastor Martin Lloyd Jones writes:
 - “Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself? Take those thoughts that come to you the moment you wake up...they start talking to you, they bring back the problems of yesterday. Instead...You must say to your soul...Why art thou cast down, what business have you to be disquieted? Hope thou in God...And then you must go on to remind yourself of God, who God is, and what God is and what God has done, and what God has pledged Himself to do.” (Lloyd Jones, 21, Spiritual Depression)
- When we face trouble in life.



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- We need to look to God's word.
- We need to say with the Psalmist:
- **“Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”** Psalm 42:11
- And one way we can care for others is by pointing them to God's truth.
 - When your child comes home from school and is struggling, remind them of who God is.
 - When your neighbor is going through a rough season, pray for them and speak to them about God's grace.
 - When your friend is discouraged, point them to the hope they have in Christ.
 - When your spouse is going through a trial, encourage them with the promises of God.
- We can care for others by speaking God's truth.

Point 4:

- Finally, we can care for others by giving to them.
- After Joseph shared the meaning of the dreams.
 - A plan was made to save one fifth of the produce of the land during the first 7 years of plenty.



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- And then to use that during the time of famine.
- Furthermore, Joseph didn't just save grain for Egypt.
 - He was able to share what he saved with other surrounding nations.
 - We're told that all the earth came to Egypt to buy bread.
- Joseph and Pharaoh were able to provide for many people because they heard God's revelation and because they responded with discernment and wisdom.
- And so, we need to ask, how can we care for others with the resources God has given to us?
- We need to remember that the resources we've been given by God, aren't just for us.
 - Whether it's 2 pennies, or 20 dollars, or 2 million dollars, God has given all of us, the responsibility to honor him with our finances.
 - Paul writes:
 - **"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart..."**
2 Corinthians 9:6-7
 - All of us have been called to be generous.
- Furthermore, it also means we have a responsibility to give with wisdom.



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- I remember when I was in college in Chicago, there was a person in front of my dorm room who asked me for money to get home to Wisconsin.
- A group of us gave him \$50.
- But then, I saw the same person week after week, asking for money for the same reason.
- We can't just say yes to every request.
- To truly love and care, we have to give with wisdom.
- I'd ruin my children if I gave them everything they asked for.
- We also have a responsibility to wisely spend and not overspend.
 - If you find yourself overspending, you need to make a plan to pay down your debt.
 - Carelessly racking up credit card debt is a spiritual matter.
 - I know it can be stressful.
 - But we need to learn to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us.
- This also means we have a responsibility to save, not only for ourselves, but so that we can care for others.
 - It's wise to save.
 - But saving while refusing to be generous is one way, we can store up treasure on earth and not in heaven.



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- Listen to what Pastor Colin Smith writes:
- “Saving is never the first thing for the Christian. It comes after piety and charity. Always remember that there are two ways to dishonor God with your money. One is to spend what you should have given. The other is to save what you should have given.” ([LINK](#))
- And let’s remember that we can give to others, because God has given to us, his one and only Son.
 - **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”** John 3:16
 - Jesus died on the cross, to pay for our debt of sin.
- How can we care for others even during difficult seasons in our lives?
 - By noticing them.
 - By remembering them.
 - By speaking God’s truth to them.
 - And by giving to them.
- It says in verse 55, when all the people were famished and without food.
 - Pharaoh told them to go to Joseph.
 - And when people were desperate for food.
 - Joseph was able to give bread to all who came to him.



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- And if you're here today, and you're feeling spiritually lost.
 - If you're looking for peace and hope.
 - There is someone greater than Joseph you can go to.
 - God is calling you to go to Jesus Christ and to trust in him.
 - If you've never trusted in Jesus Christ, I invite you to believe in him.
 - Because when you do, you can have eternal life.
- **Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." John 6:35**