

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – SERMON 13

FORGETTING AND FRUITFULNESS

Genesis 41:50-52

INTRODUCTION

- Previously we have seen how Joseph is a type of Christ as the Son and the Servant
- Here he pictures Christ the Sovereign:
 - ✓ The Spirit was upon him (41:38; Acts 10:38)
 - ✓ Possessed God's wisdom (41:39; John 5:20; Matthew 13:54)
 - ✓ All were commanded to bow the knee to him (41:43; Philippians 2:9-11)
 - ✓ His name means "revealer of secrets" and "saviour" (41:45; Matthew 13:35; 1:21; John 4:42)
 - ✓ He took a Gentile bride (41:45; Ephesians 2:6;3:6;5:23-32)
 - ✓ He was thirty years old when his ministry began (41:46; Luke 3:23)
 - ✓ He was highly exalted after his sufferings (41:49; Philippians 2:9-11)
 - ✓ He provided bread to multitudes (41:56; Matthew 14:13-21; John 6:35)
 - ✓ He was visited and honoured by all nations (41:57; Psalm 72:17; Isaiah 2:2-3;49:6; Zechariah 14:16-17)
- In blessing Joseph, God gave him a family of his own.
- Children are a gift from God (Psalm 127:3)
- In Bible times, names had great significance.
- In these names we are given an insight into Joseph's own state of mind at this time.

- ✓ Manasseh – forgetting
- ✓ Ephraim – doubly fruitful

I. GOD MAKES US FORGET THE FORMER SORROWS

A. There is a wrong type of forgetfulness cf. 41:1

1. We are not to forget God, His benefits to us, and our duty to Him (Psalm 103:2)
2. We are not to forget our duty to our neighbour (Genesis 41:1)

B. There is a right type of forgetfulness

1. This is a work that God performs in us
2. Not effected by will-power
3. Not simply a matter of “Time healing all wounds”

C. We must forget those sins which God has forgiven and cleansed us of

1. The need for the *unsaved* is to remember and grieve over their sins, seeking forgiveness through Christ
2. Believers can have confidence that God has forgiven them all their sins, past, present and future
3. This forgiveness is based upon God’s faithfulness and justice (1 John 1:9)
4. The promise of the New Covenant is that God “will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 10:16-17)
5. It means He will not hold those sins against us; He lays them aside and does not regard them

6. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)
7. The devil is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10)

D. We must forget the sorrow of the past

1. God healed the pain, anguish, grief, bitterness of Joseph's trials
2. Christ came to "heal the brokenhearted" (Luke 4:18-19)
3. Many people are weighed down with the past, refusing to let it go
4. This is a hindrance to fruitfulness
5. We must lay aside every weight in order to run the race (Hebrews 12:1)
6. We must forget those things which are behind (Philippians 3:13-14)

II. GOD MAKES FORGETTERS INTO FRUITFUL SERVANTS

A. Joseph glorified God for all the blessings he received

1. All we are and have is a gift of God's free grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)

B. Because he had laid aside the sorrows of the past, he was able to bear fruit

1. There is no sign of malice towards those who hurt him

C. God blessed "in the land of my affliction"

1. The solution to our problems is not a removal of them or from them

2. Affliction produces fruit (John 12:23-26)
3. Realising that God uses these afflictions to make us fruitful, we ought to look at them as being for our good, not evil (Psalms 119:75)
4. God is able to make our branches “run over the wall” of our circumstances (Genesis 49:22)

CONCLUSION

1. Memory is the faculty of the mind
2. This shows us that a fruitful, prosperous Christian life requires a disciplined heart and mind (2 Corinthians 10:5)
3. Through prayer, distressful thoughts are replaced by God’s peace (Philippians 4:6-7)
4. When we fill our minds and lives with right thoughts, there is no room for wrong thoughts (Philippians 4:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
5. In the eternal state, “the former shall not be remembered” by the redeemed (Isaiah 65:16-17; Revelation 21:4)
6. What past griefs and hurts are you holding onto, hindering your fruitfulness in God’s service?
7. Will you yield these unto God?