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INTRODUCTION

The external change in Joseph's circumstances is astonishing, but his character has undergone a remarkable transformation as well. He is no longer the brash teenager whose careless talk aggravated others. Joseph has become an intelligent and wise individual without parallel in Egypt.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 41

1. How many times is God mentioned in verses 1-36? What role does God have in these verses?
2. When Pharaoh summons Joseph to interpret his dreams, what response does Joseph give Pharaoh regarding his "abilities"? Does this reveal anything about Joseph's view of God?
3. Verse 33 marks a turning point in the narrative and in Joseph's life. Why does Joseph offer this advice? How do verses 1-36 persuade Pharaoh that Joseph is the right man for the job?
4. A key element has continually surfaced in Joseph's life since chapter 39. What is the unique element that Pharaoh sees in Joseph? Based on the description given in Genesis 41:39 and Isaiah 11:2, what effect does this have on competency, effectiveness and efficiency?

5. Genesis 41:25 and 32 indicate that God has revealed what he is about to do. How does this information affect what Pharaoh and Joseph should do? Pharaoh accepts the message God gives rather than attempting to change it. What might this suggest about humanity's role in the events of history (cf. Proverbs 19:21; Ephesians 2:10)?

Read Colossians 3:22-25

6. Joseph has developed skills and competencies that match Pharaoh's needs. Who has created these various skills and abilities within man (consider Exodus 31:1-6; 1 Kings 3:3-12; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)? Why does the source matter? How, like Joseph, should this information direct one's use of these skills?
7. Joseph becomes personally involved in what God plans to do in Egypt and the ancient Near East. What do the names of his two sons reveal about the effect his role in God's plan has had on his life?
8. Thriving under pressure occurs through concurrent dependence upon and alignment with God. What does dependence look like without alignment? How does alignment without dependence look? Can these be mutually exclusive?
9. In which area, dependence or alignment, do you most struggle? What changes would you like to see in either of these areas?

MOVING FORWARD

Dependence upon God and alignment with his plans are God's desire for your life. When each of these is pursued and elevated above your own desires and independence, true life is found. In your work and planning, begin with a prayer that God's Spirit would reveal himself to you and transform your will.