



10/18/2015

INTRODUCTION

Genesis 40 marks a turning point in Joseph's perspective. Up to this point, he has remained oblivious to the needs and feelings of others. His perspective, however, is ready to change. With this change comes a revelation from God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 40

1. How is the reason for Joseph's imprisonment described as different from the cupbearer and baker? How are their situations similar?
2. In chapter 37, Joseph was ignorant of the effect his dreams had on his family. Now, however, he notices the "troubled" or "dejected" faces of the cupbearer and baker. Why are they upset about their dreams when Joseph arrives (cf. 41:8)? How does Joseph's concern for the two prisoners alter his future (see Genesis 41:9-13)?
3. What does his concern for others suggest about his growing relationship with God (John 13:34-35)? Why are these two topics related (Psalm 10:17-18; 146:7-9)?
4. People in the ancient Near East believed that God spoke through dreams. What interpretations does Joseph give for each of the dreams? If he wanted something in return (40:14), why does he give a negative interpretation to the baker (2 Peter 1:21; cf. 1 Kings 22:14)?

5. Genesis assumes that God communicates with his creation. What things lead you to believe that God still speaks today or that he no longer speaks? If he still communicates with humanity, what does this look like?

Read John 10:14-30

6. Jesus tells a parable about a shepherd and his sheep. What are the characteristics of the sheep that belong to the shepherd (Jesus)? What is Jesus' relationship with them? How does he interact with them?
7. John 10:27 states "my sheep listen to my voice." What is the message that he gives in these verses? Given that Jesus is no longer physically present on earth, how do his followers "know his voice"? (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
8. How do you position yourself to hear from God? What has God provided to help you know his voice and discern it from others (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 1:1-4)?
9. What responsibility rests on those who hear God's voice (Hebrews 3:7-11)? How does their response affect their relationship with God and what promise do they have?

MOVING FORWARD

Hearing God's voice and obeying it are two different challenges. If hearing God's voice isn't followed by listening and obeying, it's as if the message had never occurred. Pray this week not only for the ability to discern God's voice, but the boldness to act upon it when it does come.