

## Hey! That's Not Fair: Genesis 40-41

07/27/2025 - Andy Deane

Have you ever had one of those weeks, or maybe years, where it felt like everything was working against you? You tried to stay faithful, but people forgot you, God seemed silent, and the breakthroughs you prayed for went to someone else. In Genesis 40-41, Joseph faces unfair moment after unfair moment, but we'll see how God was never absent, He was just working on a bigger plan. This passage reminds us that when life feels unfair, God is still faithful, and He's shaping our story even in the waiting.

### **It's Not Fair When I'm hurting and no one seems to care.**

*Genesis 40:5-8, 1 Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. 2 Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, 3 and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison...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. 6 When Joseph came to them the next morning, he saw that they were dejected. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officials who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why do you look so sad today?" 8 "We both had dreams," they answered, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God sees our sorrow & never stops caring.*

- *Matthew 9:36, When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*
- Sometimes people don't know you're hurting. How can we let them know we are? Who can we help that's hurting?

### **It's Not Fair When the people I help do not offer to help me.**

*Genesis 40:14;23, 14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison...23 The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God wants us to serve as if we're serving Him.*

- *Colossians 3:23-24, Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

### **It's Not Fair When God makes me wait longer than I can handle.**

*Genesis 41:1, 1 When two full years had passed...*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God will give us grace to endure His delays.*

- *James 5:7-8, Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near.*
- What could God be doing while you wait? Is it possible the waiting is accomplishing something good?

### **It's Not Fair When desperate people need answers, & no one points them to God.**

*Genesis 41:8, 8 In the morning his mind was troubled, so he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them for him.*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God placed us near others for a reason..*

- Romans 10:14, *How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*
- Are you open to asking someone if they are ok and if you can pray the next time you see a stranger discouraged?

### **It's Not Fair When the weight's on me when it should be on God.**

Genesis 41:15-16, *15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." 16 "I cannot do it," Joseph replied to Pharaoh, "but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God is the Savior, not us—so help, pray, & then rest.*

- Psalms 121:3-4, *He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*
- Avoid the temptation to take credit for what God is doing, but avoid the pressure of thinking you are the Savior too.

### **It's Not Fair When I don't get a heads-up before life gets hard.**

Genesis 41:28-35, *28 "...God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do. 29 Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, 30 but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land...33 "And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. 34 Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. 35 They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God does give us a heads up, we just ignore it.*

- 1 Peter 4:12, *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*
- What can we do during good times to prepare for trials? Are there daily or weekly habits that can keep you ready?

### **It's Not Fair When others get the breakthrough that I prayed for.**

Genesis 41:39-43; 50-51, *39 Pharaoh said... "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you..." 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. 45 Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah and gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife...50 two sons were born to Joseph... 51 Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." 52 The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."*

*If It Happens to You Remember: God is shaping our story with His faithfulness while we are suffering too.*

- Romans 8:18, *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed...*