

JOSEPH: KNOCKED DOWN BUT BOUNCED BACK

GENESIS 41:16-38

SERIES: WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS!

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." **Genesis 41:15-16 (NIV)**

- **A Ballast:** a counterweight – a force that offsets an opposing force in order to maintain balance.

1. Joseph's Ballast Was His Unwavering Belief in God's Sovereignty

- His belief in God's sovereignty helped him to bounce back from every setback he faced: betrayal, slavery, false accusations, imprisonment, abandonment.
- Joseph's audience with Pharaoh marked the beginning of his redemption, but there was another opposing force at work – a "set up."

¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of **you** that when you hear a dream **you** can interpret it." **Genesis 41:15 (ESV)**

¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; **God** will give Pharaoh a favorable answer." **Genesis 41:16 (ESV)**

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "The dreams of Pharaoh are one; **God** has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **Genesis 41:25 (ESV)**

²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; **God** has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. **Genesis 41:28 (ESV)**

³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by **God**, and **God** will shortly bring it about. **Genesis 41:32 (ESV)**

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since **God** has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. **Genesis 41:39 (ESV)**

2. Unique Challenges Come with Moving from God's Waiting Room to His Examination Room.

- When the wait is finally over there is relief, new life, new hope, but there are also new challenges.
- You must anticipate set ups – things that could change your focus from relying on God to relying on yourself.

³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" **Genesis 41:38 (ESV)**

- Joseph's ballast, his belief in God's sovereignty, influenced Pharaoh's perspective. What relationships do you have that might be affected by how you handle your belief in God's sovereignty?

3. Bouncing Back From a Setback Does Not Necessarily Mean Returning to Life As it Was.

- Joseph did not return to his old life and his father's household.
- Bouncing back requires a willingness to let go of what had been and an openness to receive the new thing God offers to you.

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. **James 1:12 (ESV)**

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:12-14 (ESV)**