



We've all experienced times in our life when things don't go our way. For Joseph it was thirteen years of his life that were taken from him. At the end of Genesis 40 we read that Joseph was once again forgotten. But in Genesis 41 Pharaoh has a disturbing dream and Joseph is remembered. If you notice Joseph's posture, he is a completely different person than the teenager we met in Genesis 37. Joseph learned to point to God in all situations. We see here that in his darkest times God shaped Joseph's character so he could lead Egypt through an immense famine. God had uniquely qualified Joseph, but it took years of shaping.

1. In Sunday's message, we began by looking at the fable of Cinderella. Her life started out beautifully, but she had to endure dark times. The conclusion of her story is a fairytale. When you think about Cinderella, what in her attitude/demeanor stand out to you?
2. **Read Genesis 41:1-8.** For two years Joseph waited in prison with no excitement happening in his life. Think about a period of your life that seemed pointless or lackluster but looking back, you can now see God's hand of shaping.
3. **Read Genesis 41:14-16.** Joseph offers Pharaoh peace in his time of trouble. God has called us to be peacemakers. **Read Psalm 29:11, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 5:9, and John 16:33.** How can you be a person who offers peace to those in times of trouble?
4. Joseph can be humble in the presence of Pharaoh because he allowed God to shape him in the pain of his youth. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Timothy 4:5, and Hebrews 12:2.** What painful situations have taught you endurance as a Christian?
5. **Read Genesis 41:33-40.** After interpreting the dream, Joseph offers a solution to Pharaoh's problem. Joseph is patient in the situation and doesn't resort to self-promotion. Do you struggle with patience or wanting to promote yourself?
6. It's obvious that what Joseph's brothers did hurt him. **Read Genesis 41:50-52.** Think about a painful situation in your childhood. How did that shape the way you live your life? Have you surrendered that pain to the Lord for spiritual healing?
7. As we look at how Joseph has changed in the twenty years since we met him in Genesis 37, share some of the inner changes God has done in your life. What Bible verses do you run to as you seek the Lord to shape your life?
8. Close your time in prayer.