

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 20th November 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Ps Hymns 16, 300, 264, Read: Genesis 41:1-14 Text Genesis 41:14

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Prepares to Meet the King

From the time the chief Butler was restored to office and Pharaoh dreamed a dream, two years had past.

God used Pharaoh's dream and the need for interpretation, to remind the Butler he had forgotten Joseph who was still in prison.

When Pharaoh was told of Joseph, we read in **Genesis 41:14** *Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.*

Joseph was delivered from Prison. He had been confined, that is bound in jail, then he was called by King Pharaoh, and clothed with new garments provided.

What a wonderful picture in the gospel where sinners confined to sins horrible pit, no escape, are then called by the King of Glory out of sin's prison, and then clothed, in new garments provided.

But also, in reading these words, we might think that other details have no real significance, maybe only a gap filler.

Please remember this is God's word, there are no gap fillers and everything recorded in God's Word is given by the LORD for our instruction.

There is a lesson to be learned, we need the Holy Spirit to open our understanding, and cause us to see and understand the truth that is already there.

Joseph will stand before an earthly Ruler, the King of Egypt, who at that time had authority, power, and possessions.

Joseph has an audience with the King in his house.

However, Joseph made certain preparations in order to stand before the King.

Such preparations were taken to ensure Pharaoh was referenced as King, the law of the land.

Therefore, men and woman there are lessons for us today, we have an audience with KING of Kings, and LORD of Lord's.

Just as King Pharaoh called Joseph from the prison for the purpose meet with him, so our King the Lord Jesus Christ has called us out of sins prison for the purpose to meet with Him.

There are preparations we must make to come into the presence of the Sovereign Ruler, who is the KING of Glory.

What lessons can we learn today.

I FIRST, JOSEPH'S EXAMPLE

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself..."

According to historical studies and Bible commentators, concerning the Egyptians, some suggest that the Egyptians where a clean-shaven people.

In fact, some suggest that Egyptian men, shaved their whole body, to set them apart from other nations.

It is interesting to note that later Joseph's brethren stand before him and they don't even recognise him, they don't even see any resemblance to the Joseph they knew.

Now of course years have passed, he's older, and Joseph's brothers weren't looking for him, yet while the years have passed **Genesis 42:8** states "**Joseph knew his brethren but they knew not him.**"

Everything about Joseph had changed even his language, he knew how to speak Egyptian, **Genesis 42:23** "...**he spake unto them by an interpreter.**"

Facially Joseph is different, **he shaved himself...**"

But keep in mind Joseph has just come from prison, he would need to be washed.

To shave himself would also include to cleanse or wash himself, as water would be applied to the body.

In other words, Joseph cleaned himself up, or he cleansed himself to meet the King.

In this sense Joseph leads by example, for all believers in preparing to meet Our Eternal King.

Joseph honours King Pharaoh, the law of land. He shows reverence to the king.

King Pharaoh is a pagan and ungodly man, yet Joseph shows respect to the one who has authority over him.

Not to shave would be to dishonour, displease, and disrespect the King, provoke his wrath, cause offence, and not to hear from the King.

It would also discredit Joseph's godly character.

Joseph has been called by the King and will enter into Pharaoh's presence, so Joseph shaved himself.

Look at those words closely, he shaved himself...” no one else shaved Joseph, it was something he was to do himself. The idea is cleansing.

The same thought when Ruth was to meet Boaz, notice Naomi said to Ruth in **Ruth 3:3** *Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor.* This was something Ruth was to do for herself, wash herself in preparation to meet with Boaz.

What an example for our own lives people, believer, some may shave themselves in the literal sense, **yet by spiritual application of shaving, cleansing, water applied, we are all to cleanse, wash ourselves from sin to enter into the presence of King of Glory**

How do we cleanse ourselves? by dwelling in the word of God.

Ps 119:9 “*Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*”

Christ prayed in **John 17:17** “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”

(Eph 5:25-26 “*...Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it, that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.*”)

In the Tabernacle when the Priest served God at the Brazen altar, the sacrificial animal was examined its blood was shed and offered upon the Brazen Altar.

The process was messy leaving the priests hands and feet unclean.

then the priest as recorded in **Exodus 30**, would go to the Brazen Laver, with his hands and feet covered in blood to wash the dirt away.

verse 18 “*thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash with all...*” **V19** “*for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat.*” Hands speaking of work, and Feet speak of walking.

Why because the next place they entered into was within the veil They entered into the presence of God to serve and fellowship with Him.

Every time the priests were in the presence of the Lord, they must be washed otherwise it hindered fellowship, and also resulted in their death due to continual disobedience, and tampering with sin. **verse 21** *they shall wash their hands and their feet that they die not...*”.

Notice the priests where to wash themselves, this was something they were commanded to do.

Their work and walk needed to be washed in order to serve right and walk right to please the Lord. **Is 52:11** “*Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord.*”

Joseph in order to enter the Kings presence must shave himself, he must make preparation otherwise, King Pharaoh would not meet with him.

Likewise believer, be an example for other believers of the reverence, high view there should be when coming to meet the King of Glory.

Therefore wash and be cleansed, have you mind purified by the word.

I Joseph’s Example

II JOSEPH’S EXCHANGE

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment...

Having shaved himself, Joseph then changed his raiment. The word **raiment**, means ***to wrap around, a covering, a garment, clothes.***

The clothes he wore would have been provided for him. He exchanges the prison garments for new clean garments, to stand before the King.

Now we are not told what garments he wore, we he got them, but no doubt they were the best daily clothes of his day as given by Pharaoh to one not in office.

He is coming into the King's Presence in the King's own House.

Being in prison for years his raiment would have been stained, dusty, no doubt dull, with wear and tear.

But now Joseph is no longer a prisoner, he puts on new raiment, the best clothes that an Egyptian would wear provided for him to honour the King.

This message is not instructing you in what clothes you should wear when attending the house of God, to meet KING of Kings, that's between you and the Lord.

but I do want to challenge our minds, hearts and motivation, **as why we wear what we wear.**

What motivates or causes me to wear what I am wearing. It is what benefits me or does it honour the King, would it be an example to other Christians to honour the King.

Would I change anything depending on who was preaching, or what occasion it was.

There is a principle that can be taught which is, in all things Christ might have the pre-eminence. **Will Christ or does Christ have the best of us, me and from us.**

Therefore, as Joseph dresses himself to meet the King of Egypt there is certainty a clear lesson about how we should dress ourselves physically and spiritually **in preparation** for meet our Saviour, the King of Kings in His own house.

I suggest the raiment that Joseph put on was the best clothing he had or what was provided for him.

Joseph's raiment respected, and honoured King Pharaoh,
not dishonoured him.

If you follow it through, as Joseph has no issue to look his best for King Pharaoh, then there was no issue to dress to his best when meeting King Pharaoh.

Likewise, believer, we do the same when coming to **God's house, to Honour the King.**

Think of David exchange when coming into the house of God, before His King, in **2 Samuel 12:20** **"then David arose from the earth and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD and worshipped..."** David washed, anointed and changed his raiment in preparation for coming to God's house to meet with His Saviour.

Therefore, to come to worship God any less than our best, is dishonouring to God.

I suggest that is the lesson, the preparation that we make to meet the King, **is it our best, and it is for the Lord.**

Have we taken time in preparation to consider how we come to God's house, or do we just put on anything.

Do we get our church clothes, ready the night before, or is it a rush on Sunday morning.

In our home we have always taught the children, Saturday get all you need ready for church. Teaching them, preparation to meet the King in worship.

If I can make preparation, in choosing my clothes carefully to look my best, and prepare for a holiday, day out, work, work event, school uniform.

Maybe there is a particular work or school uniform that must be worn to represent the company or school.

It sets you apart that person works at particular shop, nurse, attend a certain school.

If I can make an effort or prepare for a wedding, a funeral to show respect, and love for someone else, **then why should I give, Christ my King any less.**

Though not about clothing, but the same principle applies give our best to the King to worship Him.

John 12:1-8 Mary gave her best to Christ breaking open her alabaster box or costly spices to anoint Christ. Judas mocked her for doing so.

Luke 21 those who had more money than widow woman held back on their giving. But this Widow who didn't have as much yet gave her best she gave her all.

In **Leviticus 1**, God gave the instructions to the children of Israel about the proper way to worship Him by the burnt offerings, he made provision for the rich, middle class and poor.

Over all teaching was whatever the offering presented it was to be their best, because God required nothing less, as when He gave His only Son He gave His best.

The rich from **verses 3-9**, could bring an offering from *the herd*, such as a **bullock**, The Middle class, from **verse 10-13** could bring an offering from *the flocks*, such as **sheep or goats**. **The poor from verses 14-17**, could bring their the offering from *the fowls*, such as **turtle doves, or young pigeons**.

The poor were required to being the bullock, they couldn't afford it. However, the rich were not to bring anything else.

The offering they brought to be presented to the Lord, all had to the best that they had, **without blemish**. Even if the poor had a turtledove which was injured, hurt, they were not to think I can give God anything.

Their offering pointed to the Lord Jesus Christ who God's provision for sinners, as the only way they will every find acceptance with Him.

He is without blemish, without fault, and therefore when God gave His only begotten, Son, the one whom He was well pleased, as the sinners substitute, God gave His best.

Had God not given His best, then we could never be saved.

However, God in giving His Son to suffer the shameful death of the cross, provided, for sinners, clean clothing, the best clothing, a perfect raiment, called the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

When we stood in our filthy garments, and called upon the name of the Lord to be saved, what took place, The Lord said as He did in **Zechariah 3:4** ***“Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.”***

Spiritually we have a change of raiment, it's the best, it's perfect clothing, accepted by the KING.

Believer we should give our best to God, because He gave His best to us.

Believer, when choosing raiment, clothes to come before the King in worship, do you, do I choose the best.

If so praise the Lord.

But if you can say honestly, I could give my Saviour better, always remember, then they who honour Him He will honour.

Unsaved you need a raiment which is a spiritual garment that covers you completely. It is called the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

I Joseph's Example, II Joseph's Exchange.

III JOSEPH'S ENTRANCE

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

Very briefly, when Joseph had made all preparation, he entered into the presence of Pharaoh, King of Egypt. Pharaoh met with him and spoke to him.

Again, the meeting centred upon the message in a dream that only Joseph could give the interpretation.

God used, Pharaoh's dream and presence as the means for exalting Joseph. Joseph was blessed.

Believer we think of our Sovereign Ruler, the Supreme King, clothed in majesty, honour and praise, as we seek to enter His presence, may we understand when we come to His house to meet Him, we must give our best to Him, and come with pure minds.