

Making a Difference in a World Falling Apart

- I. **God's people are uniquely equipped to prosper in this day of enigmas and conundrums.**
 - A. Enigma: a person or thing that is hard to understand; riddle, mystery
 - B. Conundrum: any puzzling or difficult problem (Luke 21:29-36). "Be always on the watch, and pray..." A prayerless church will not be able to cope with today's problems.
 - C. In Joseph's day, Pharaoh (the most powerful ruler of that day) encountered a great enigma and conundrum (Genesis 41:1-16, 25-32).
 1. A dream of worldwide significance that no one could interpret
 2. A looming catastrophe that threatened Egypt and the whole world
 3. But Joseph, representing God's people, had the answer (Genesis 41:33-43).

- II. **Like Joseph, God is calling the Church into a place of confidence and problem-solving (Gen. 41:14-16). Are we not the light of the world (Matt. 5:12-16)?**
 - A. The enigmas we face in everyday life prepare us to be a blessing to the world around us, including our own households (Genesis 45:10-11).
 - B. Joseph learned in his distress to be confident in the Lord (Genesis 39:20-23; 41:9-16). Don't waste your sorrows (Romans 8:31-32).
 1. Do not underestimate the power of your testimony to build someone else's confidence in the Lord (Revelation 12:10-11, e.g., Marketplace Prayer Meeting).
 2. Slaying our lions and bears in preparation for giants in the land (I Samuel 17:36-37).

- III. **Solving problems in the power centers and demonic strongholds of the world (Genesis 41:33-40)**
 - A. Setting our hearts to bring redemptive answers to the world's problems also benefits us (Gen. 41:41-43; 45:3-13; Jer. 29:4-7, 10-11). "I know the plans I have for you!"
 - B. Example of the Mercy Warehouse providing housing and food and breaking the power of addiction and demons (Isaiah 58:6-12) - What a blessing to us!
 - C. Learning to hear the voice of God
 1. Unbridled fear distorts God's voice.
 2. Sometimes God speaks in riddles, dreams, visions, and other unusual ways.
 - a. Joseph knew enough about God to know that God was clearly speaking to Pharaoh (Genesis 41:25-43). Prophetic people are critical for our time.
 - b. Peter also understood what God was doing in his day (Acts 2:14-24).

- IV. **Faithful and wise administration and organization is a powerful way to respond to God's revelation and to do God's work (Acts 11:27-30).**
 - A. Solomon's practical and artful administration revealed God to the whole world (E.g., The Queen of Sheba, II Chronicles 9:2-9).
 - B. Joseph practically and spiritually administered Potiphar's house, the dungeon, Egypt, and the whole world's needs, including those of his own family (Genesis 39:6, 20-23; 41:38-43, 56-57; 45:25-28).
 - C. Question for us today: What are we, as the Church, called to creatively steward and govern in the world around us? What needs might the world today ask us to govern?
 - D. "What shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31-39)? God graciously gives us all things. We are more than conquerors!