

JOSEPH AND POTIPHAR

He sat in a prison cell, forgotten. Since childhood, he had been **SO DILIGENT** that he was always supervising something.

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. Proverbs 22:29 [KJV]

Still, he was supervising a **DUNGEON**. He had been the head of Potiphar's entire household. The wealthy captain of all Pharaoh's guards left him to run the show. The food was good! The wine was good! The clothes were tailored! The Mrs. was ... deceitful!

As he mused, a party raged, a feast up at the Palace. Wine was served to pharaoh by his chief Butler. As he stood by, he overheard a rather inebriated pharaoh relate his unnerving dream – "DREAM!! Oh, my soul! That guy running the prison! He interprets dreams! **MINE!**"

In a moment, in the middle of another mundane day of running a prison, **EVERYTHING** Changed! The order came from pharaoh's own mouth! "Bring him!" In the space of about an hour, Joseph stood, clean and shaving, before the most powerful man of his time. He did not stand before "mean men." His diligent work was rewarded by God with the interpretation of pharaoh's dream, and the resulting promotion.

Promotion ...

in a heartbeat, the slave boy from Canaan outranked to the evil woman in her husband, who had put him in that wretched prison! He could have ...

"Vengeance is mine, say it the Lord, I will repay."

-Romans 12: 19 [KJV]

Joseph saw God's purpose in this bigger than revenge.

Vengeance is a dish best served by God.

though it is not recorded in scripture ...

The pantry finally got low. Oh! How they had put off this inevitable day! Going to market used to be a pleasure. It was the wealthy, military captain's chance to flaunt his wealth. Dressed in his status, he proudly bought whatever the best shops had imported.

Then came the day of Zaphenath-paneah. How was he to know that the slave kid could interpret dreams too!? Now he - Potiphar - had to go DIRECTLY to Joseph to get his rations! Joseph even decided **how much** food he would get! "He'll probably starve us to death!" According to Joseph, this famine would last seven years! That was more groveling than Potiphar cared to imagine.

As he approached the dreaded greeneries, he found himself waiting in long lines, like a commoner. "Great! Plenty of time to anticipate the moment of humiliation!"

But what he found was the same Joseph who once supervised his entire estate. "Look how his God **STILL** blesses everything he does! I always knew he was under employed with me. That ring fits him!"

Then it was his Turn. But the disdain and condescension he expected never came. In fact, he saw Joseph wiping tears! And he could not help hearing what he said to those 11 foreigners ... "You meant this for evil, but God meant it for good, to save many people's lives." Then realization hit him. These were his very own brothers, who had sold him as a slave! He had heard the rumor but had always wondered how it could possibly be true. His reverie was broken - "Boss!"

"Did **he** just call **me**, "boss?"

With tears in his own eyes, he watched Joseph's men fill his bags to the brim and push his hand away when he proffered payment.