

Genesis 40

“God’s Tools”

February 25, 2018 – Rev. Rick Lyon

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Intro

Genesis 45 - Joseph said, "God sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive... He's the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh--the manager of his entire palace and *the governor of all Egypt.*"

1. Joseph became more compassionate.

Encyclopedia Judaica: *The cup-bearer was a high ranking royal official primarily in charge of serving wine to the king. Since he was close to the person of the king, who feared intrigue and the possibility of poisoned food, the cup bearer was required to be a man of irreproachable loyalty.*

2 Cor. 1:4 - God comforts us in *all our troubles* so that we can comfort others when *they're troubled*.

Elizabeth Ross: *The most beautiful people we have known are those who have known defeat, known suffering, known struggle, known loss, and have found their way out of the depths. These persons have an appreciation, a sensitivity, and an understanding of life that fills them with compassion, gentleness, and a deep loving concern. Beautiful people don't just happen.*

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2. Joseph learned to turn to God first.

Gen. 39:9 - "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

Gen. 41:16 - "I can't do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires."

Gen. 45:8 - "God made me the governor of all of Egypt."

3. Joseph had strong faith.

Jeremiah 23:27-28 - "By telling these *false dreams*, they're trying to get My people to forget Me... The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word faithfully. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD.

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God is using a whole bunch of tools to mold you and shape you.

- **He wants to make you more compassionate.**
- **He wants your first instinct to be to turn to Him.**
- **He wants to strengthen your faith.**
