

18 August 2013: Preached by Preacher Ko Lingkang

Topic: **The Life of Joseph (part 2): The Mysteries of God**

Scripture Text: Genesis 41

1. Joseph learned to follow the time-table of God in his life. When he was wrongly put into prison, Joseph requested the Butler to help in his release as he interpreted the dream for the Butler who would be released from prison. However, the Butler forgot about Joseph's request.

2. Joseph had to remain in prison for 2 years according to God's timing though it was difficult and trying time for him. Joseph continued to trust God and maintained a good testimony for the Lord in prison. In God's timing, the Butler remembered Joseph who could interpret dreams when Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret.

3. The sudden and dramatic change in Joseph's life came from being a prisoner to become the Prime Minister of Egypt when he interpreted Pharaoh's dream and told him the action to take before the 7 years of famine came. Pharaoh appointed Joseph to be the 2nd man in-charge of Egypt. God's purpose and timing cannot be changed by men. It is not determined by men's evil deeds or well-doing.

4. Joseph has to exercise his human responsibility before God by being faithful. He was courageous to acknowledge God as the One who interpreted the dream. He was responsible to take action before the years of famine came. God blessed Joseph and promoted him with power and status. However, it cannot be said that it is God's will for every Christian to always end well physically and materially. For some Christians, it is God's will that they will remain in suffering and poverty in this earth.

5. We may not be able to fully explain God's will in every situation for God to act in His way. Sometimes on hindsight, we can understand why God works in certain way. Sometimes, we can only know the answer in Heaven when God explains to us. However, we are assured that God's will is always perfect and good for His children.