

Pressed Unto Promotion



[AUDIO VERSION](#)

Today is the 27th of May 2023, and this message is connected to a previous message called The Furnace of Waiting and is also connected to the messages about the purification of the Bridal Company. If you remember, our theme scripture for that was what Moses told the people in Numbers 16 – that, in the morning, the Lord would show who are holy and who He will cause to come near Him. And as we know from studying that story, the particular morning in which the Lord showed who He would cause to come near him was the morning of the third day. We spoke about the watches of the night and understanding the night journey and the budding, blossoming and bearing fruit of Aaron's rod, and the man God has chosen bearing fruit in the night season.

The Holy Spirit alerted me to another place in the Word where it speaks about budding, blossoming and bearing fruit. We find that in Genesis 40. Joseph had been thrown into prison because of the false accusation of Potiphar's wife. And while he was there, two of the king's servants that he was angry with got turfed into the prison, and Joseph was put

in charge of them by the captain of the Guard. They were the butler and the baker, or the cup bearer and the baker. It says that both of them dreamed dreams on the same night and they were depressed the next morning because nobody was there to interpret those dreams. And Joseph said, "Surely interpretation belongs to God. Tell me your dreams". And immediately God gave him knowledge of what the dreams were symbolizing.

So, it says that the Cupbearer dreamt about a vine with three branches and those branches budded, blossomed and bore fruit. Then he pressed the grapes into the cup and put it in Pharaoh's hand. Joseph interpreted the dream that the three branches represented three days, and in three days he would be lifted up out of the prison and he would be restored to his position as cupbearer to the King. Then we find that the baker also had a dream that talked about threes, but he had three baskets piled up high on his head with all sorts of different baked goods, and the birds of the air were eating from those baskets. Joseph gave him the bad news that in three days he would also be released and he would be released to be hanged and that the birds of the air would eat his flesh. So, the Lord connected this for me with what we've been learning about the budding, blossoming and bearing fruit of Aaron's rod. Joseph was a righteous man, imprisoned for no good reason. And here are these two men came presenting these very different scenarios in dreams. One was a dream of complete restoration to former positioning, and the other was a dream of judgment unto death, both given at the hand of the king.

We read that on the third day (this is the same third day, the morning of the third day when 'God will show those who He will choose to come near him...'), it was the king's birthday - and they were both brought out of prison. One was set in place and the other was completely silenced. So, we see that on the morning of the third day, which is a prophetic season, there is a simultaneous cutting off and silencing or there is promotion, depending on the will of the King and the One who exercises ultimate authority. Years ago, I wrote a post called 'Off With His Head', 2007 was actually when I wrote it. I don't think it's even on my website... where the Lord showed me about this story and what happened. Do you remember, Joseph said to the baker, when he and the butler left prison, "Please remember me to Pharaoh. I've been imprisoned unjustly and get him to release me".

So, we have to ask, “Why did Joseph not get remembered by the cupbearer to Pharaoh straight away?” Genesis 41 says ‘after two full years’, in other words, in the third year, the King dreamed a dream that needed interpreting and the cupbearer had a miraculous return of memory and remembered Joseph. Actually, it was God who prompted him to do that. But why did Joseph have to wait those two more years of unjust imprisonment? Do you remember that I spoke about how when they were dealing with the case of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and the others who complained about God's decisions, God was dealing with the flesh. He was removing rebellion, criticism, complaining and works of the flesh, including self-pity. Well, Joseph, at that stage, when the butler and the baker were taken out of prison, was still leaning on the arm of flesh. He was hoping for the cupbearer to put in a good word for him. He was relying on the recommendation of man to bring him release and promotion.

So, he was not in a place - even after all that prison time, of fully relying on God. And we see there's an interesting parallel with the cupbearer and the baker, because they both represent different portions or manifestations in Joseph's heart. The baker had three baskets on his head in the dream with all sorts of different baked goods. And in the Hebrew, there are three words used there altogether for ‘baked goods’, but they give the impression of something made by men's efforts and put together. And, you know, all of us have a tendency to cook up our own ideas, sweeten them to suit our own palates and shape them to our own desires. And in the dream, remember, the birds of the air were eating these baked goods. Whenever we have a tendency to rely on our own understanding; to cook up our own plans, sweeten them, and shape them to something that will appeal to our own taste buds or our own desires, it is food for the demonic realm, and the ‘baker’ in us must be put to death, so that the ‘cup bearer’ in us can be released to the rightful position serving the King of Kings.

Now, because Joseph was leaning on the arm of flesh and cooked up a plan to get a recommendation from the cup bearer in the ear of the King, the baker in Joseph had to be put to death by TWO MORE YEARS in prison. There were two reasons why he had to wait in the furnace of waiting for two more years - the one was to stop him from leaning on the arm of flesh and looking to man for help and promotion, and the second reason was in order to synchronize his lifting up and release with the arrival of the dream of Pharaoh of the ten fat cows and thin cows. You know that story? So, by the time Joseph got to the beginning of the third year after the cupbearer and the baker had left the prison, all that, relying on the arm of flesh and putting his trust in man had been

put to death. And Joseph knew that the only One who could deliver him out of his place of imprisonment was God Almighty.

The interesting thing about the cupbearer and that vine that budded, blossomed and bore fruit is that the fourth thing that happened was that the fruit was PRESSED. Now pressing or crushing always speaks of a difficult trial and a refining process.

'Gethsemane' means 'oil press', and it's the place where Jesus wrestled with the will of God and eventually came to the place of full submission saying, "Not My will, but Yours be done". So, the pressing of the grapes is to bring us to a place of *'it's no longer I that live but Christ that lives in me'*. Self is silenced. The baker; the works of the flesh and the voice of the flesh are put to death, and we have died and our life is hidden with Christ in God. It's a place of full submission and meekness to the will and the timing of God.

It was in the morning of the third year that Joseph was called out of prison by name. It was in the morning of the third day that the cupbearer and the baker were called out of prison by name. The 'morning' is 'dawn' in Hebrew. It is the fourth watch of the night, when the dawn progressively arrives. Do you remember that I shared with you in the last message on Understanding the Night Journey, that there are three different stages to the dawn: astronomical twilight, nautical twilight and civil twilight. the first two stages of the dawning process are still dark. You cannot see clearly. You cannot see what's going on, But by the civil twilight, when the morning star is visible in the sky, before the sun rises over the edge of the horizon, you can see everything clearly in front of you.

I want to liken that staggered process of the morning watch; the fourth watch, to the pressing process that happened with Joseph in those two years - or two stages of the dawn Watch. Because the cupbearer was restored to the side of the king and had the ear of the king, it meant that the third watch of the night was over and the morning watch was beginning for Joseph, but it was still very dark - two more years in the prison. And that is when the pressing of the grapes happens.

When grapes are pressed, the outer skin and the structure of the branch of grapes is crushed and destroyed. You can never go back to it. Only the juice passes into the golden cup. Juice is liquid. It takes the shape of the container it's put in. It's a picture of 'not my will, but Yours be done'. And Joseph went through a pressing in those last two years in prison that removed the structure of his own plans, his own understanding, his

own dreams, and he became MEEK in the hand of God. Joseph was the grapes pressed into the Golden Cup. He was the Golden Cup that was raised out of prison in the third year and put at the right hand of Pharaoh to rule. He was given authority. But God had to take that which was in Joseph's heart and press it and crush it.

Pressing is a dismantling. The grape skin is like the mantle of the grape that holds in a specific shape the precious juice of the grape and that outer mantle is taken off. It's similar to being undone, being pressed or dismantled. Discombobulated is a word that comes to mind. Joseph had his mantles stripped from him twice, once by his brothers; the beautiful coat his father had made for him was stripped off when he was sold into slavery. The second time was when Potiphar's wife stripped his mantle off him, and that led to his imprisonment. But the third time, when he was called out of prison by name, it says in the Word that he changed his own garments. He removed his beard. The beard speaks of wisdom, the wisdom of man. And he was led into the presence of the king of Egypt in fresh, clean garments; having dismantled to be re-mantled or given a new mantle of authority and power and positioning at the RIGHT HAND. So, we see here a picture of the preparation of the sons of the right hand - and without the pressing, there is nothing for the cup to pour out. There has to be the pressing.

I want you to think of a pregnancy; coming to the end of the third trimester. The waters break and the birthing begins. But first, before the birth is complete, the birth canal has to be traversed. And if you thought the womb of preparation was a confined space, it has nothing on the birth canal! In the birth canal, the baby enters it head first, upside down, and it spirals down in the darkness. The baby cannot move itself in any way. Its arms are pinned by its side. All of its own efforts come to nothing. It is the convulsions of the birth pangs of the mother's body that pushes the baby out into the world. The baby is unable to help itself. And it has been said by some medical authorities that the process of going through the birth canal is an experience like being crucified for the baby because of the pressing of the lungs in crucifixion and the position of the arms and the weight of the body causes the lungs to be pressed. So, it's very difficult to breathe and the baby goes through the same kind of process, so that when it comes out of the womb and is fully birthed, the lungs can expand and it can draw in air into those lungs for the first time.

So, this spiralling upside down in the darkness with your arms pinned by your side, unable to do anything to change your own situation in this very narrow space, you don't

know what the heck is going on - this is like the pressing of the grapes. Joseph's birth canal time was the two years of being supposedly forgotten. Vain is the help of man. He did not understand why God was not releasing him. And in this place, trusting and letting go of all dependence on the support and help of man and putting your life fully into God's hands is a necessary part of the pressing process. Meekness in being forged in the heart of the Bondslaves who are to become the Sons of the Right Hand.

On the third day, the cup bearer was raised and shown favor. In the third year, Joseph was the cup bearer. Joseph, his fleshly voice silenced by the two days of further prison time, ministered the wine of God's revelation and wisdom to Pharaoh. Joseph was 17 when he was thrown into the pit. He was 30 years old when he was called out of prison. 30 is the age at which a priest starts ministry. It is also the age of the placing or adoption of the sons, giving them authority to take over their father's business.

So, I want to say to you, precious bondslaves of the Lamb; destined to be sons of the right hand, understand that the pressing of the grapes time is unavoidable. It is to remove everything in us that is built by the structure of our own understanding in order to bring us to full meekness in the hand of the Lord, because as a son of the right hand, just like Joseph was placed in that position of authority, if there had been the voice of the flesh and the voice of self still operating within Joseph's heart, he would not have been in a fit state to rightly govern in Egypt during the time of famine, and nor would he have righteously provided a place for his family to come out of Israel into Goshen and to be protected during the famine. All bitterness, all revenge thoughts, all self-pity was pressed and crushed out of Joseph in his prison time.

Understand that in the morning, the Lord will show those who are holy and those who He will cause to come near Him - but it's the morning of the third day. For Joseph, it was the beginning of the third year after the baker's voice was silenced. God makes no mistakes with timing. And in the night watch; in your night of trial, you have budded blossomed and borne fruit and you carry the fruit within your heart, but in order for you to be able to release the wine of God's word when you are brought out of your place of confinement and preparation, you have to go through the time of pressing, the time of being brought to the end of your own strength, the end of your own ability to cook up and bake and sweeten and form and shape your own pastries. God wants to kill the baker in you, so that you can be a wise and trustworthy Son of the Right Hand to whom He can release authority and kingdom commissioning in the earth.

May the Lord bless you and encourage you and give you understanding of how this story of the butler and the baker and Joseph applies in your own situation.

Selah