**The God Who Exalts**

*Genesis 40- 41*

**Introduction**

What does it mean to exalt something? Exalt meansto hold (someone or something) in very high regard; it is to think or speak very highly of.

1. **God is truly the exalted One**

**Psalm 97:9**—*For You are the Lord Most High over all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods.*

**Psalm 99:2**—*The Lord is great in Zion, and He is exalted above all the peoples.*

2. **Our hearts are exposed by what (or who) we exalt**

a. God

**Psalm 57:5**—*Be exalted above the heavens, O God; let Your glory be above all the earth.*

**Psalm 21:13**—*Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength; we will sing and praise your power.*

b. Self

**Psalm 12:8**—*The wicked strut about on every side when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.*

**Psalm 66:7**—*He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; let not the rebellious exalt themselves.*

3. **We are a fool if we exalt ourselves**

**Proverbs 30:32**—*If you have been foolish in exalting yourself or if you have plotted evil, put your hand on your mouth.*

4. **God lifts up in His time and according to His will**

**Psalm 75:6-7**—*For not from the east, nor from the west, nor from the desert comes exaltation; but God is the Judge; He puts down one and exalts another.*

**Psalm 89:16-17**—*In Your name they rejoice all the day, and by Your righteousness they are exalted. For You are the glory of their strength, and by Your favor our horn is exalted.*

**Psalm 92:10**—*But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.*

**2 Timothy 4:1-5**—*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

**3** Practical Principles to Implement

**I. Serve God and others regardless of your circumstances**

**Romans 12:2**—*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

A. Remember God’s providential hand at work

**Genesis 40:3**—*So he put them in confinement in the house of the captain of the bodyguard, in the jail, the same place where Joseph was imprisoned.*

**Psalm 56:3-4**—*When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?*

B. Intentionally minister to others

**Genesis 40:7**—*He asked Pharaoh’s officials who were with him in confinement in his master’s house, “Why are your faces so sad today?”*

C. Share your faith

**Genesis 40:8**—*Then they said to him, “We have had a dream and there is no one to interpret it.” Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell it to me, please.”*

**Genesis 41:39**—*So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.”*

**Genesis 25:34**—*Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew; and he ate and drank, and rose and went on his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*

**2 Corinthians 5:20**—*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

D. Speak truth in love

**Ephesians 4:15**—*but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ…*

**Genesis 40:16**—*When the chief baker saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph, “I also saw in my dream, and behold, there were three baskets of white bread on my head…*

**II. God determines who, what, and when exalting occurs**

**Genesis 40:23**—*Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

**Genesis 41:1**—*Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile…*

A. Wait for it

**Isaiah 55:8-9**— *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

**Psalm 27:14**—*Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord.*

**Psalm 62:1**—*My soul waits in silence for God only; from Him is my salvation.*

**Psalm 69:3**—*I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.*

**Psalm 106:13**—*They quickly forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel…*

**Psalm 119:114**—*You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word.*

**Psalm 130:5-6**—*I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.*

B. Our response is to believe and trust

**2 Peter 3:9**—*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

**III. God can instantaneously change circumstances**

**Genesis 41:38-44**—*Then Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is a divine spirit?” So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are. You shall be over my house, and according to your command all my people shall do homage; only in the throne I will be greater than you.” Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh took off his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put the gold necklace around his neck. He had him ride in his second chariot; and they proclaimed before him, “Bow the knee!” And he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Though I am Pharaoh, yet without your permission no one shall raise his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”*

**Philippians 2:5-11**—*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*