

Genesis 41:14

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh had a dream that disturbed him, so he called for all the magicians and all the wise men to interpret the dream.

† **Genesis 41:8** *Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh.*

They couldn't interpret the dream, so they called for Joseph who was in prison and was known for interpreting dreams, and that's where today's verse comes in: ***Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.*** And we know that God gave Joseph the interpretation and Joseph gave it to Pharaoh, who made Joseph second in command over all of Egypt.

But if you think about it, Joseph was cleaned up before he was brought to Pharaoh, and after he was pardoned for his crime (even though he was innocent) and made second in command over Egypt. Joseph did not go back to his old dirty jail clothes or prison cell, but rather he went forward in his new life that was given to him.

I'm sure Joseph never missed prison and the way he was treated, nor did he even think about his friends who were in prison. He never thought, "*Man I miss those guys and the good times we used to have, eating and laughing together and joking around.*" No, because it was prison, and Joseph remembered how bad his life was while he was there. And who knows, Joseph may have talked to some of those who were actually innocent while he was in prison, just like he was, and now had the power to talk to Pharaoh and have them released as well.

But we were all like Joseph, being imprisoned in the life we had lived for so long. Now unlike Joseph, we were all guilty of our sins and that's why we lived being imprisoned in our sins. But we also wanted a way out. Then someone came along and told us about Jesus, and we were set free, and not only set free, but also cleaned up with our old prison garments being removed and replaced with new garments, being clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

You can also think of Lazarus who was dead and wrapped in graveclothes, yet Jesus brought him back to life and had those old graveclothes removed from him.

† **John 11:44** *And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

Now I don't think that Lazarus missed his old grave clothes and wanted to go back and put them back on again. He never thought, "Man, I want to go back into that tomb and be wrapped in those hot sticky graveclothes again." No, Jesus set him free and with that freedom and new life in Jesus, he never wanted to go back to his dead life again.

But we too have been cleansed up by Jesus. He has removed those old prison garments and grave clothes from us and given us a new life, and even better than what Joseph got, being second in command under Pharaoh, we are now children of the King of Kings and Lord of lords. We have become joint heirs of God's kingdom with Jesus Christ.

† **Romans 8:16-17** *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

So then why do so many want to go back to that old lifestyle, thinking they had such a good time and miss the things they used to do? Sure you had friends and laughed and maybe even had a lot of stuff. But you were also empty and weighed down with your graveclothes and prison garments.

If this has been you lately, thinking of the old times and even missing it, pondering if you should go back to some of that stuff. Remember that we should not go back to our old graveclothes and prison garments, but move forward in our new life in Jesus Christ.

† **Job 17:9 (NLT2)** *The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger.*

† **2 Timothy 4:8 (NLT2)** *And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.*