

Genesis 41:39

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you."

I think we all know the story in Genesis, of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers, and God using Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and becoming second in command next to Pharaoh. But one thing I noticed when I was reading this story in Genesis again, and that is that Pharaoh never asked Joseph what he was in prison for.

We know that he was there because he was falsely accused of attempted rape by Potiphar's wife. But how did Pharaoh know that if he never asked? For all Pharaoh knew, Joseph could have been put into prison for murder or an attempt to overthrow the government (Pharaoh). Or maybe he could have been put in prison for robbery or burning down someone's field.

No, Pharaoh had no idea, and all he saw was Joseph, all cleaned up and how he was at that moment.

† **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.*

But isn't that how people see us now, all cleaned up by Jesus, not knowing what we used to be like. In fact, people are probably shocked to hear about some of the things we used to do and the lifestyle we used to have before coming to Jesus.

Yet we get so focused on our past and worried about it and what others would think about us if they knew the truth. But if you really think about it, how many people actually ask you about your past and what you used to be like? I know for me, it's very rare that someone would ask, because honestly, they could care less, because they see me as I am now. Just like people see you for who you are now, and they like you for who you are.

The only time the past is really brought up is if you are looking for a new job, because when you do, they want to know who you worked for, how long you worked there, why you left etc... But beyond that, no one really asks. No one ever said, "So, you're a Christian. What did you used to be like?" instead, they usually say, "I had a feeling you were a Christian." or a non-Christian asking you, "Why are you so different than everyone else?" and when you tell them, you usually don't get into what you used to be, but that you are different now, because of Jesus in your life now.

The enemy (satan) brings up your past to make you feel that you are not deserving of eternal life or heaven. But God never brings up our past to condemn us, in fact, we usually remember it on our own to remind us of how awesome God is for loving us, despite our past.

So, if you are saved, don't let your past scare you, because Jesus paid for all your past, including the recent past, on the cross. And like Joseph, there is no need to live in or remind others of your past, because God has a wonderful future for you and has changed you from what you used to be in the past, to who you are now in Christ Jesus.

† **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

† **Hebrews 8:12** *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.*