"PRISON TO PALACE" **5-31-20a**

Text: Genesis 41:1-8

Intro: God has heroes scattered all over the pages of the Bible. They come in various sizes, shapes, genders, occupations, and time spans. When we last saw Joseph, he was languishing in an Egyptian prison. He was in prison, but he had broken no laws. He was in prison because he had done the right thing and honored God in his life. Joseph, he was waiting for a visit from the outside. Joseph had interpreted a dream for Pharaoh's chief butler, he asked for the butler's help, but, when the butler was released from prison, he forgot all about Joseph. In our text today, we watch as Joseph is delivered from the prison and placed in the palace.

1. PROVIDENCE *(Gen.41:14-15)*

A) Providential Delays – *(Gen.41:1a)* We are told that Joseph waited in that prison for "*two full years*". That was after the butler was released. God placed Joseph in a waiting room and taught him to wait and to trust.

B) Providential Dreams – *(Gen.41:8)* Pharaoh's dreams caused much trouble of mind. He called his "*wise men*", but they could not interpret the dreams. To be a counselor without counsel was a dangerous. *(Dan.2:1-13)* God sent the dream to Pharaoh and he also sent a blank mind to all of Pharaoh's counselors. God was in control of all things. *(Prov. 21:1)*

C) Providential Deliverance – *(Gen.41:9-14)* Joseph is brought to Pharaoh only when Pharaoh has been brought to a place of desperation. On any other day this ruler would not have listened to a prisoner. We do well to remember, God has everything on a schedule.

When will Jesus move your mountain, meet your need, deliver you from your prison? Right on time! He will not be early, and He will not be one second late!

2. PHARAOH *(Gen.41:15-36)*

A) Joseph's Profession – *(Gen.41:16)* Joseph stands before Pharaoh and listens as the king explains his dilemma. Joseph listens to the dream and gives Pharaoh the interpretation. But, before he does, Joseph displays true humility and points Pharaoh to the Lord. Even after all he had been through, Joseph is not bitter. All that matters is God and His glory!