

More Bounce Back Than Bozo

Dear Friends,

Have you ever seen one of those plastic clowns that you can hit like a punching bag; it falls backwards but just keeps bouncing back up? Sometimes it has the name Bozo on it. I used to see this punching bag clown as a child at birthday parties or my friends may have had one. One thing was certain: if you hit Bozo, he would always bounce back up!

Joseph of Genesis was kind of like Bozo. Buried in a cistern (boom), but he bounced back up. Sold into slavery (boom); he bounced back up. Falsely accused at Potiphar's house (boom); he bounced back up. Forgotten in jail (boom); he bounced back up and stood before Pharaoh. Genesis chapter 41 is the start of his biggest bounce back! After a two-year old promise is remembered by the cupbearer to Pharaoh, Joseph is called in to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. When Joseph hears the dream, Joseph tells it like it is: "Seven years of abundant harvest is coming to be followed by seven years of severe famine - you better get ready!" Joseph then has the audacity to tell Pharaoh (king of the world) how to fix the upcoming problem - a bold move - considering Pharaoh didn't ask for Joseph's advice. When Pharaoh entered a room, he was worshipped. When Joseph entered Pharaoh's room, Joseph said, "I worship God." (See Genesis 41:16). From the pit (placed into by his brothers), to the Palace. Joseph had more bounce-back than Bozo.

We can learn a lot about bouncing back from Joseph. Examine Genesis 41 closely and you will see three things Joseph did that helped him make the bounce back. First, Joseph learned that what appeared to be a defeat and disappointment (2-year prison wait) turned out to be a blessing in disguise. He was right where he needed to be when the cupbearer remembered his promise to Joseph that he would mention his qualities to Pharaoh. Second, Joseph gave God the credit for his giftedness (Genesis 41:16). Joseph was very good at interpreting dreams, but he, rightly so, gave the credit to God. Important: NEVER try to take credit from God. Third, let God place you where HE wants you. If you read Genesis 41, you will see that Pharaoh appoints Joseph as Prime Minister/Minister of Agriculture. Joseph doesn't lobby for the position or drops hints that, "He's the man for the job," he just let's God work on Pharaoh's heart and mind. As a result of Joseph's appointment, millions of people are saved - including many, many Jews.

You need a bounce back? Take a chapter out of Joseph's life: let disappointment be a blessing, always give God the credit, and let God place you where He wants you.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Dick Fisher (heart recovery), Gabe Smith (colon cancer), Barb Pittenger (shut-in of the month)

Events: All-Church Workday – Saturday, May 18th 8:30AM – 12:00PM