

Jan. 10, 1924.

41st

~~47th~~ Ch. Book of Genesis- verses 9 to 14.

I am wondering this morning if you see any particular lesson in the passage of scripture that I have selected for our lesson today. I know, personally, that I read this story time and time again, because I have always loved to read the story of Joseph before I found anything significant in the part that I have read to you in your hearing this morning, but there is something very significant in it. I am wondering if you are not like the rest of us, just read and don't notice everything you read. Here in the Bible in just a few chapters is told the whole story of a man's life even to his death and burial, and he lived to be fairly old. I believe, if my memory doesn't trick me, he lived to be 110 years old, fairly old, and yet in just a few chapters in the Bible his story is told, therefore, all they tell about Joseph must have been important to be recorded in just a few thousand words. Pharaoh, and it was during the time of we don't know the name of this man who was the ruler. Pharaoh means the same thing in general terms as Emperor. They were not native Egyptians but they were people who had come in and subdued the native Egyptians and had established a dynasty there. This Pharaoh had absolute authority over nearly everything in Egypt. His word was law. One night after a big supper or not eating any supper at all, I don't know which, he had a bad dream. The thing was repeated to him in another form, and he was worried about it, so he sent for those people who made it their business to interpret dreams, and sent all over Egypt for them, and he couldn't find any one who could interpret it for him

and it came true just like he had heard it. He is a Jew, a Hebrew. Now the king had been worried about this dream enough to send all about over Egypt to get people to interpret it, and he hears this morning that there is a person down there in jail to interpret it, and they knew that Pharaoh was in a hurry to get this man. He told them to bring him, and so they went for him immediately, and there's where the lesson comes that I want to call your attention to this morning.

He said let Pharaoh wait until I can shave and change my clothes, and they thought enough of that to put it in the record. Now there is a reason for its being there. Pharaoh was conducting a great court. According to what they seem to be finding in digging in the earth around old Tut's tomb, it must have been splendid. Here is a man in prison and Pharaoh wants him to come in the presence of the King, of the ruler, and this prisoner takes time to put on the kind of clothes, to put himself in the right dress to appear in court, and he lets the court wait, until he can put himself, dress himself fit to go to court, showing that he had due regard and due respect for the office of Pharaoh, showing that he had a true concept of his relationship, showing that he even didn't want to go to the court except as he should go, and there is no doubt at all in my mind that Pharaoh was impressed with the fact that this prisoner says let him wait until I can shave and change my clothes;

let him dress fit for the occasion; let him present himself to the court in the way that will be a credit to him in keeping with the customs of the court. I don't believe that Joseph would have made good with Pharoah if he hadn't taken the time to put himself in the right kind of clothes to go to court. As Pharoah sat upon his throne, if he was on his throne, I don't know where he received Joseph, and the man came in just from prison, but dressed as he ought to be dressed, Pharoah couldn't help but think ~~of~~ that of him, and you know the story, Joseph interpreted the dream for Pharoah. He told Pharoah that it was repeated in another form, but the two dreams are one, and it means that you are going to have seven years of abundant harvest and seven years without, and the lean kine eating the fat kine are the lean years when we will have a crop failure in Egypt, and it may consume what we save during the fat years, and this Pharoah saw the sensibleness of the interpretation, and it was the beginning of making Joseph next to Pharoah in all Egypt, and it was the beginning of another land owning system with Egypt. It marks the beginning of a complete change in the form of government and ownership in the great rich valley of the Nile. It all hinged in a large measure on this jail bird's determination to fix himself right before he appeared in court. Oh, of course, Joseph was not what we call a jail bird, but he was a prisoner in the dungeon, down in the dark part of the prison where they made them very secure, and he came out of that into the presence of the great ruler, but he made that ruler wait until he got himself right.

As I thought of making this talk to you today it occurred to me that may be I ought not to make it, that women make men wait long enough for them to dress any way, and then I thought of what I see in the News and Observer how they do not make us wait like they used to, and may be "them day is gone forever", and whether they do or whether they do not, there is something very important in a person making them wait to dress to meet the occasion, and I believe it isn't out of place even to make this kind of talk to young women. Whenever the occasion comes for you to appear before a school board if you think enough of the occasion to fix yourself up so you will be reasonably attractive you will stand a better chance of accomplishing the thing you want to do. The person who isn't enough concerned with the situation to properly dress for it ought not to be surprised in failing to get it. The person who says, oh well, any thing is good enough, I don't care any thing about what I wear or how I look, that kind of person never gets as far in life as they would get if they remembered the story of Joseph and Pharoah where Joseph made Pharoah wait until Joseph could shave and change his clothes.