



FGA Singapore
A two-part sermon series.

Following

The Outlier's Path to Influencing or How to increase your influence when you are not the most powerful person in the room.

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THE OUTLIER'S PATH TO INFLUENCING PART ONE INTRODUCTION

With the rampant rise of social media and its worldwide influence, it can be a very noisy world with little to no chance of ever being noticed. However, if we are called to be God's influencers, we have to learn how to increase our influence even if you are not the most powerful person in the room.

In the first part of this series, we study the path of how Joseph increased his influence wherever he was, whether in the prison or in Pharaoh's palace. You do not have to have a huge platform to be God's influencer; instead, we are challenged to seek God's answers before thinking up our own answers; in this way we can become his influencers in today's noisy world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Recall a time when you felt helpless and without influence in your position. How did you respond at the time and what would you have done differently?
2. When faced with a difficult situation or conundrum, which school of thought do you usually fall in? The 'yes' school of thought or the 'no' school of thought? Consider what past experiences or rationale might have led to your having this particular response.
3. In the sermon, some reasons were suggested as to why we do not respond more like Joseph, such as the vast availability of information, our prior education or training or past experiences. What are some reasons you do not put God as your first resort when facing a difficult situation?
4. Read Genesis 39:20-23 and 41:9-16.

Do an inductive bible study (observations, interpretation and application). You can use the following as a guide.

- i. Posture your heart. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to be your teacher. Open your heart to the Lord to speak to you.

- ii. Read the passage aloud
 - iii. Ask some context questions of the passage:
 - What sort of writing is this? (a letter, a poem, a narrative etc?)
 - Are there any clues about the circumstances under which it was written?
 - What has happened so far in this particular book of the Bible?
 - iv. Some observation questions of the passage:
 - Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the passage?
 - What is the main point or points?
 - What surprises are there?
 - What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
 - v. Some meaning questions of the text:
 - How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?
 - How does the passage relate to Jesus?
 - What does this teach us about God?
 - How could we sum up the meaning of this passage in our own words?
 - vi. Some application questions of the passage:
 - How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
 - Is there some attitude I need to change?
 - How does this passage call on me to change the way I live?
5. God does not require us to be social media influencers with thousands of followers; instead he wants us to be his influencers where we are right now. What is your current platform and how do you think God wants you to move where you are?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Going to God for His answers is a habit that we as Christians need to cultivate. It is not about whether we can do something or not. The important thing to remember is to first surrender to God and seek *His* way of doing things. Even if you feel you have the capability to counter a certain situation, that might not be God's answer for it. We need to tune our hearts to His will, to see as He sees first before running headlong into something that might not be what He wants us to do. Once we learn how to go to God in surrender and obedience first before seeking any other solutions, our influence will increase.

CHANGE YOUR MIND

So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace." (Genesis 41:16 NKJV)