

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"Life On Hold"
Genesis 40:1-23
Study-69

God uses many different things to produce ripeness of character. Joseph was falsely accused and suffered for it, but he did not fight God's will; he was fully open and surrendered to God!

Isaiah 55:8

Thought Of Our Passage: "Joseph, In His Uncompromising Long-Suffering, Models The Endurance Of A Genuine Faith In Adversity."

- 1. Verses 1-4 Faith & Discouragement:**
- 2. Verses 5-19 Faith & Opportunity:**
- 3. Verses 20-23 Faith & Encouragement:**

1. Verses 1-4 Faith & Discouragement:

Genesis 40:1 Then it came about after these things

Context - What things? Joseph being falsely accused of rape, placed in prison, and mistreated. **Genesis 39:20-23** God reveals His presence through placing Joseph over the other prisoners. **Genesis 39:23**

the cupbearer (*Butler, better translated cupbearer*)

cupbearer – known as "*clean of hands.*" He would carry the drinks to the Pharaoh. It was to make sure the quality was the best, and the pharaoh would not drink any poison.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer in Babylon. (*Purity and Quality*)

and the baker for the king of Egypt,

One that prepared all the food for the king. There was food for the mortuary, priesthood. The dead with the best food. Some 20-30 breads and pastries. The best quality, and not poison. The baker was a trusted man. (*Purity and Quality*)

offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

"displeasure, blameworthy, literally sinned against."

Genesis 40:2 Furious – *"To burst out in rage!"*

Genesis 40:3 Joseph was imprisoned.

That's all it says but **Psalms 105:17-22**

It is interesting that God often puts suffering people together.

Genesis 40:4 The captain of the bodyguard put Joseph in charge

Potiphar, seeing Joseph the blessed man, now uses him in his new position in prison.

"The Providence Of God!"

That God orchestrates the events of lives for our good and His glory.

and they were in confinement for some time.

3 Encouraging Truths About Joseph's Sufferings:

1. Joseph Knew That His Sufferings Were Being Used By God For His

Good: (Nothing is recorded of Joseph complaining, attempting to escape his hardships)

James 1:2 Consider it all joy,

Consider (count) Greek word is an accounting term.

It means "*to evaluate*," it is an honest assessment of the figure.

It is looking at the hardship from a heavenly or spiritual perspective.

(producing something of value)

Our Values Determine Our Evaluation:

If I Am Living For Comfort My Sufferings Will Upset Me:

If I Am Living For Character, I Can Endure Hardships:

Hebrews 12:11

2. Joseph Was Faithful To God In A Dark Place: What a witness Joseph was.

Genesis 39:22-23

Don't ever forget that when we are in a trial people are watching us!

3. Joseph Knew That God Was With Him:

Genesis 39 It says **four times: The Lord was with him**

It was witnessed by **Potiphar**. It was witnessed by the **jailer**

Genesis 39:23

2. Verses 5-19 Faith & Opportunity:

Genesis 40:5 both had a dream the same night,

God had given Joseph dreams and the ability to interpret dreams

(Genesis 37:5-10). Proverbs 18:16

Genesis 40:6 and observed them, behold, they were dejected. "*sad, wretched, we would say bummed out*" This shows what an observant and compassionate man

Genesis 40:7 "Why are your faces so sad today?"

Literally, *"Why is your face so bad?"*

Genesis 40:8 "Do not interpretations belong to God?"

What a witness Joseph was for the Lord, (**Genesis 39:9; 41:16, 51, 52, 45:8**)
(Joseph God's Witness Gives God The Glory, bring God into it!)

Proverbs 18:16

We can witness for the Lord wherever He places us.

Tell it to me, please."

Joseph's dreams had not been fulfilled, but he believed it was from the Lord, and it was true. Hebrews 11:1

Verses 9-11 The Dream Of The Cupbearer:

Verses 12-13 The Interpretation of The Dream Of The Cupbearer:

Joseph Faithfully Delivered God's Message:

Genesis 40:14-15

"For I was in fact kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews,
His own brothers sold him into slavery.

and even here I have done nothing that they should have put me into the dungeon." Does not bring up Potiphar's wife falsely accusing him of rape.

Verses 16-17 The Dream Of The Baker:

Genesis 40:16 saw that he had interpreted favorably, he said to Joseph,
The baker likes the favorable outcome, happy ending.

Verses 18-19 The Interpretation of The Dream Of The Baker:

Joseph Faithfully Delivered God's Message:

within three more days Pharaoh will lift up your head from you
Decapitate your head.

and will hang you on a tree, and the birds will eat your flesh off you."

You will be *"impaled on a stake"* hung on a tree for the birds to pick your flesh.

Acts 20:27

"For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

3. Verses 20-23 Faith & Encouragement:

Genesis 40:20 Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; That at a birthday it was customary to dispose of pending cases against persons.

Genesis 40:21-22 but he hanged the chief baker, Psalm 90:12

Faith: just as Joseph had interpreted to them.

God's Word came to pass!

This was the fulfillment of God's Word through Joseph, but it also was encouragement to Joseph that God is faithful.

Verse 23 Disappointment:

Genesis 40:23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph,

The cupbearer suffered from a lack of gratitude. but forgot him.

How long? **Genesis 41:1; Proverbs 13:12**

When People Let Us Down, Keep Trusting The Love And Faithfulness Of God: Psalm 118:8

Isaiah 2:22; Jeremiah 17:5-7

The Great Truth: "God Never Forget Us"

Genesis 8:1 But God remembered Noah

Abraham 25 years, Moses 40 years, David 20 years, Remembered Rebekah, Rachel, Sarah, Hannah

Jesus was hanging on the cross, and one of the thieves placed his faith in Jesus:
Luke 23:42-43

Joseph Yet Waits For The Lord: Isaiah 40:30-31

Application:

1. Joseph Was Marked By Being Faithful And Loyal Under All Circumstances. He Carried His Convictions With Him And Lived Them Out.
2. Daily Faithfulness In The Ordinary Duties Is The Best Preparation For Future Service. Joseph Found Plenty Of Work To Do And Was Enabled To Bear His Own Sorrows And Troubles In Ministering To The Needs Of Others.
3. Those Who Are Convinced That God Desires To Use Them In Greater Capacities Will Demonstrate Their Unwavering Faith In The Midst Of Discouraging Situations.