



Seek God Defined Success

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 40 – Week of June 11th, 2023

1. The prisoners assigned to Joseph

We continue to see that Joseph is forced into many situations that are not of his choosing. His brothers sold him into slavery, and Potiphar placed him into prison. Through all of this, Joseph succeeded. Why? Because the Lord was with him. God's grace caused the faithful obedience of Joseph to flourish. Even though Joseph went from slave to prisoner, God called him a success. God blesses, Joseph obeys. In this passage, we see that Joseph once more uses his given responsibility for the benefit of others. Two officers from Pharaoh's court are placed in his custody, and Joseph willingly attends to them.

2. Prisoners troubling dreams

While under the custody of Joseph, both officials have dreams that trouble them. These men were placed in their circumstances, and given these dreams in order that God might work His will through their situations. As Joseph remarks, "Do not all interpretations belong to God?" By giving these dreams, the Lord is glorified in providing the interpretation. Joseph gave the glory to God by reminding the men that only God could give clarity to the dreams. We once more see that God continues to provide, and Joseph continues to humbly submit.

3. Joseph interprets the dreams

The Lord once more provides. Joseph is able to interpret both dreams for the officials. For the cupbearer, Joseph gives a favorable response. The result of his dream is that in three days Pharaoh will lift up the head of his servant and restore him. Soon, the cupbearer would return to his previous role. In light of the good news given to the cupbearer, the baker likewise told his dream to Joseph. However, the interpretation of this dream was quite different. The interpretation of the baker's dream was opposite of the cupbearer. He would in three days be put

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

God often uses seasons in which it seems that the Lord has forgotten us. We must remember that God always keeps His promises, and that He will never forsake us. "Delay never thwarts God's purpose; it only polishes His instrument."

Heart

We must guard our hearts. During seasons of trial and perseverance, we will be tempted to doubt the promises of God. We must remind our hearts of the faithfulness and goodness of the Lord.

Hands

Equip and sharpen the Sword of the Spirit. Apply the Sword to our hearts regularly, so that we might remember God's perfect love for His people at all times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parent Commissioning Class

July 16th @ 1 pm

Membership 101

July 23rd @ 1 pm

to death, and his body would be eaten by birds.

4. Dreams come true

The dreams came to pass precisely as Joseph had foretold. Both men met the outcomes that Joseph had revealed to them. In one moment, this must have been very encouraging to Joseph. He had been given dreams when he was younger, that one day everyone would bow down to him. The fulfillment of these two interpretations was confirmation that dreams do come true, and should have been a moment of celebration for Joseph. However, Joseph is forgotten. The cupbearer breaks his promise, and does not remember him. Once more, Joseph is left in hardship, waiting and hoping for the Lord to fulfill His promises.

Read Genesis 40

1. What is success? How, as Christians, do we view success differently from the world? What everyday challenges does this unique perspective present?
2. Joseph, while still in captivity, finds success after success. What is the source of his success? Why/how should we likewise acknowledge success in our own lives?
3. Faith in God's sovereignty does not negate the necessity of human action. How does this tension show up in Joseph's life and faith in God? What about in your own?
4. As Christians, how are we to view and handle dreams? What biblical evidence would you give to support your approach?
5. How in Joseph's interpretation of the prisoners' dreams do we see a balance of truth and love? How can we apply this example to our own lives and interactions?
6. *"Delay never thwarts God's purposes; it only polishes His instrument."* What is the meaning of this quote? How have you experienced this? How has the Lord disciplined you as you waited on Him?
7. It is always difficult when promises are broken. How does the Gospel help us respond in moments where our right behavior is repaid with sin? How should we respond in those moments?