

In the Beginning

Genesis 40:1-23

- Joseph is in the midst of God preparing him to become the 2nd most influential person in Egypt next to Pharaoh, but before he can ascend into the throne room he first had to descend into a pit, get sold into slavery, and now become a prisoner in Jail; all this occurred in order for Joseph to be God's servant leader. It's been said "**before we can be used mightily often God must allow us to be wounded deeply**", this helps us to become empathetic to the plights of others that we may best minister to them and their needs instead of judging them for their faults and failings.

V1-23

- **V1-4** although Joseph has gone from being a slave in Potiphar's house to an accused criminal in prison **39:21** says "**The Lord was still with him**", showing him mercy, giving him favor with the jailor, while working behind the scenes for him to be exactly where He wants him. Two new prisoners enter the prison and they are important prisoners from the royal court as the **butler**—was in charge of the Pharaoh's drinks, and the **baker**—cooked his bread.
- In order to be in these positions both of these men had to be trustworthy for they had easy access to the King and therefore could easily help in an assassination attempt. But now they've gotten on the Pharaoh's bad side and that's not a place you want to find yourself in, for as with many tyrants and monarchs he was known to be ruthless and without compassion. Were told Pharaoh was offended by them but were not told what they did to cause their faithfulness to be questioned, all we know is that they who once was unreachable to Joseph is now beside him.
- **V5** before Joseph dreams and ability to interpret them wasn't welcomed because he used them to elevate himself, now he's learned not to flaunt his gifts but wait for God to open a door to use his gifts. **V6-7** "**now before you can genuinely help people you first must have a heart for people**", in order for Joseph to know about the dreams he had to notice their sad faces.
- **V8-13** before Joseph does anything he lets the men know that it's God who gives interpretations so he has learned to give God the credit for everything, this is the kind of attitude that will keep you from becoming prideful when others want to give you credit or praise for something good that you've done. So the Butler tells Joseph his dream and God gives him the interpretation letting the butler know that within three days he will be restored back to his position.
- **V14-15** afterward Joseph uses this as an opportunity to now tell him his story how he was unjustly taken and wrongly accused ending up in this prison, so when your back in the good graces of the Pharaoh he asks the butler to "**please remember him and put a good word in for him**". **V16-17** when the baker saw how the butler would be restored he eagerly tells Joseph his dream hoping to hear that he also will be restored back to his position as well.

- **V18-19** just as the butler would be restored back to his position in three days the baker likewise would know his fate in three days, except instead of being restored to his position he would be executed. **V20-23** on Pharaoh's birthday three days later just as Joseph had said both the butler and the baker were taken out of the prison, the butler restored to serving Pharaoh his drinks, and the baker was executed, but even with his good fortune the butler didn't keep his word. This shows we cannot depend upon man to either remember or reward us as he is prone to forget, but God He never forgets those that He loves > **Heb 6:10**- God will remember and reward
- Why do you think God would leave Joseph in prison? He had seemingly learned his lesson of being spoiled, taking his gifts for granted, looking out only for his self, what else was their for him to learn in prison? Patience folks > **Rom 5:3-4**- patience comes from enduring trials that are in our lives, and its through these trials that God builds character in us. **Heb 6:12, 10:36**- its through faith and patience that we inherit the promises. Martin Lloyd Jones said "**its tragic when a person succeeds before they were ready for it**" and boy have we seen his saying come true.