

# GOING DEEPER

## DESPERATION, DEVOTION, DECORATION

Out of the frying pan and into the fire. That's how the saying goes when things go from bad to worse. That's Joseph's situation when we open Genesis 40. Joseph has gone from favored son, to kidnapping victim to be sold into slavery, to be falsely accused and unjustly imprisoned. It just keeps getting worse for Joseph.

So, there the bottom, and then there's rock bottom. Joseph's rock bottom occurs in 40:23, when the cupbearer "did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." The temptation to despair must have been great, and it would be another two years in prison before Joseph is given any hope of getting out of prison. In the middle of all this, we can see Joseph's example of how to navigate such difficult situation when we are not aware of God's plan or purpose.

Two years pass, and at the lowest point of Joseph's life, he gets summoned to see Pharaoh! The cupbearer remembers! He is exalted and then comes a rapid-fire of life changes: he is in charge of all Egypt, he gets married, he has two sons – Manasseh and Ephraim – and then the famine comes, and all the earth comes to him to buy grain. In a matter of a half-chapter writing, Joseph's entire life is change.

Let's dig into to see what God is speaking to us through Joseph's life.



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**1. QUESTIONS?** Are there highlights, questions, or comments from the text or the message from Genesis 40 & 41?

**2. CONSIDERATE.** Had Joseph not demonstrated compassion and care (40:6-7) toward the cupbearer, he may have never hear about the dream. He would not have interpreted the dream. The cupbearer would not have told Pharaoh about Joseph. Joseph may not have ever been released from prison – possibly dying there. What does this tell us about our focus in difficult times?

**3. DEVOTED.** Joseph chooses to be a devoted and faithful servant through the lowest point in his life. How can you follow suit during the lowest times of your life? How can you prepare for that now?

**4. FORGET ME NOT.** Even when the cupbearer forgets about Joseph, God does not. How does Joseph's example inform us of how to respond when it seems that everyone has forgotten you?

**5. REMEMBERING.** Joseph acknowledges God's provision when he names one of his sons Ephraim (41:52), which sounds like the Hebrew word "making fruitful." How have you seen God provide in your life through tough seasons?

**5. Pray.** How can we pray for each other to be devoted to God in the midst of the most difficult situations in our life?