

Sermon Notes



Title: *Joseph's Stay in Prison Was Not a Waste of Time*

Text: Genesis 40:1-23

Theme: Joseph's stay in prison was not a waste of time because God was always with him. Your life is not a waste of time because God is always with you, who to Christ for refuge have fled.

**I. Joseph Encounters an _____
in Prison (1-8)**

II. Joseph _____ Two _____ (9-19)

III. The _____ Happen Just as Joseph Said (20-23)

IV. Applications

A. Dreams from God served a _____
_____ in the progress of bringing _____
through Christ to fruition.

B. Perspectives on God's Providence From Joseph's Experience

1. God's providence can be _____.
2. God's providence can seem _____.
3. God's providence may appear to be a _____
of _____.

To read for next week: Genesis 41:1-57

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. How old do some believe Joseph was at the time this incident in prison happened? Bonus points: How might his age at this time be ascertained?
2. Who do some believe was the warden (on whose grounds the prison was located) of the prison where Joseph was kept?
3. What two prominent persons did Joseph encounter in prison (v. 1)?
4. What happened to these two people that disturbed them (vv. 5-6)?
5. Why were dreams significant to Egyptians?
6. What did Joseph ask these persons to do (v. 8b)?
7. What was the cupbearer's dream (vv. 9-11)? What did it mean (vv. 12-13)?
8. What did Joseph ask the cupbearer to do for him (v. 14)? Why (v. 15)?
9. What was a likely indicator of Joseph's faith in the LORD God (v. 15)?
10. What was the baker's dream (vv. 16-17)? What did it mean (vv. 18-19)?
11. What happened after these men had their dreams (vv. 20-22)?
12. What took place after the cupbearer returned to Pharaoh's service with respect to Joseph (v. 23)?
13. How should we view reports of people who claim to have received dreams from God? (for more information, see <https://www.christianpost.com/news/why-john-piper-doubts-muslims-having-jesus-dreams.html> and <https://tottministries.org/muslim-dreams-and-visions/>. For a more detailed analysis, see <https://www.biblicalintegrity.org/2012/03/01/muslim-visions-jesus/>. (Note: these last two websites embrace a Dispensational hermeneutic, but it does not impede the fine Biblical analysis of this phenomenon.)
14. Identify some Old Testament persons who had their dreams recorded in Scripture. What characteristics do you discover about the persons who received them and the nature of the dreams?
15. How did the dreams of the cupbearer and the baker assist in the progress of redemption?
16. What is meant by a "hard providence"?
17. When have you experienced a "hard providence" from the Lord's hand? How did you navigate your way through it? What positive and negative lessons did you learn? What did you discover about yourself? How "close" did you feel the LORD to be?
18. Why does God permit unfair things to happen to us?
19. Does the fact that God may design for you to experience something unfair or unjust mean that you should be silent or resigned to the unfairness? How did Joseph seek to handle his unjust treatment (see v. 14-15)?
20. What times in your life did you consider to be a waste of time only to realize there were valuable lessons you learned?