

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 7th August 2022 Hymns Psalm 100 480, 95 Read: Genesis 39:11-20 Text Genesis 39:11-20

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Time In Prison (1)

When Joseph was tempted then falsely accused of committing a serious crime, **Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.**

The word **prison** is the word **dungeon**, as spoken in Genesis 41:14 "Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. **It also refers to a pit, a well or a hole,**

As any dungeon it would have been a dull, depressing, and dark place.

Furthermore, this prison is attached to Potiphar's house, as **ch 40:3** indicates.

Joseph is imprisoned because He honoured God.

There is a lesson believer for our hearts that when trials come after times of blessing, they come straightway.

In a sense, trials, are in line, waiting to meet you, trials in many forms, each taking their turn.

For Joseph in Egypt, it was temptation, then falsely accused then prison.

And while it is true there are some believers called to enter prison literally, as Joseph did, yet all believers will go through a prison experience, physically, spiritually, emotionally, mentally, medically, financially, where it seems a lonely place.

A prison experience that is a dark, dull, distressing, and draining.

A place in life, a frame of mind that you do want to be in, where you want to get out and where you never want to be again.

this is where we find Joseph, maybe this is where you find yourself today believer. It is a night season, in your life, a prison experience, bound by the trials of life.

This is how the Israel of Israel felt on one occasion, but notice the instruction given to them by the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 50:10 *“who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.*

Praise God, He sends messages with His message in times of need, to speak a word to one that is weary.

Believer you feel your walking in darkness, you see no light at the end of the Tunnel, what should you do, the answer is not preacher I can't come to church, or stop seeking God, notice, ***let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.*** keep serving, depending upon and trusting in the Lord, He will make it come to pass.

Psalms 112:4 *“Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.*

Trust God in the dungeon experiences life.

In this prison or dungeon, the Lord was with Joseph, and in your prison experience the Lord is with you.

Today and next time, we want to consider Joseph's time in prison and draw many personal and practical lesson, but above see Christ in the midst and learn of Him.

I FIRST JOSEPH'S TIME IN PRISON WAS A PAINFUL TIME.

1 Painful because of the SHAME he ENDURED

Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound.

Joseph has been shamed by others. prison was part of his humiliation. He was bound. The word **bound** means **confined**. Imagine the shame and disgust from onlookers.

Joseph is securely tied as he is lead to where prisoners are kept. **Psalm 105:18** states, ***Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron. His feet are chained or fettered with iron.***

The same word fetters is used in Psa 149:8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron

Joseph is in prison because he has been a falsely accused. His name and reputation are degraded. As a result, Joseph he is in the dungeon, bearing shame.

Joseph is disgraced, dishonoured, by those around him. He suffered reproach, and insult. Potiphar will no longer identify him as his slave, his servant.

Joseph is now viewed and treated by Potiphar as prisoner.

However, Joseph endures the shame, because Joseph knows as he said in **ch 40:15** “...***here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.*** Joseph didn't allow the shame associated with him to stop him living for God.

Joseph didn't begin to waste away in prison. He didn't cut himself from anyone, He knew he was in the will of God.

The shame Joseph endured leads us to consider a greater than Joseph our Saviour Jesus and the shame He endures.

The disgrace he faced. The Apostle Paul said of Christ in **Hebrews 12:2**“ ***who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame...***” words pointing to

Christ in Isaiah 50:6 ***“I hid not my face from shame and spitting***

The word **shame** means **disgrace, to dishonour, to be ashamed of**. Christ to the ungodly by His life, ministry, preaching, was a disgrace.

When Christ said in John 10:30, I am my Father are one, the unbelieving Jews wanted to stone Him, why? Notice, John 10:33 ***“because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.***

Phil 2:6 ***“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Mark 2:7 “Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?***

Though He was man yet he never ceased to be God. Christ is the Godman, God and man in two distinct natures in one blessed person forever. Christ's two natures His humanity and deity are not half and half, mixed, blended in, He is not man sometimes and God sometimes. Rather at all times He is the Godman.

For this Jew, to claim such, and that He was the promised Messiah come to save His people from their sin, His own were ashamed of Him, they dishonoured Him and Christ was placed in prison, which was Calvary to suffer the awful cursed death of the cross and all that it involves

Yet Paul speaks of Christ ***despising the shame...*** the word **despising** does mean ***to think little or nothing of***. He thought little of the shame, disgrace and dishonour, because He was going to the cross, to become a curse for us to redeem us from the curse of the law.

Christ's only vision was to honour God's law, purchase and secure the full deliverance for sinners He came to save.

Joseph is in prison because he refused a situation that would cause him commit great wickedness and sin against God.

Therefore, believer as you live unto Christ bear the offence of the cross, defending the gospel, it's teaching that Christ is the only Saviour, Life is precious, God made male and female, marriage is one male in union with one female, there is no confusion.

As you come to church that preaches truth, give out gospel leaflets, and people who know see and hear it, they will be ashamed of you. You go there!

consider Christ, for He will never leave you nor forsake you. He will bless His people with peace. He will never be ashamed of you. One day believer you shall rule and reign with Him.

2 Painful because of the SUFFERINGS he EXPERIENCED

Ch 39:20 “*put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.*” **Ch 40:3** “*...the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.*”

Also, those words again in **Psalm 105:18** *Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron.*

Joseph's time in prison, is painful because his sufferings in prison where both physical and spiritual. He suffered in body and soul.

notice they hurt this feet with the fetters. The word **hurt** means ***to afflict, to deal harshly***. The same word used in describe how the Egyptians treated the children of Israel as their prisoners.

This was prophesied to Abraham in **Genesis 15:3** “*...thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; Ex 1:11 “Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens.”*”

Potiphar deals harshly with Joseph, he is afflicted with chains that leave their marks. Joseph's feet are wounded and bruised.

Do you see a direct link to the suffering of Christ, the pain He endured in body. **Psalm 22** the psalm of the Cross, a prophecy that pointed to Christ's sufferings on the cross, we read in **verse 16** "***they pierced my hands and my feet.***

See the reference to the Saviour's feet, pierced, hurtled afflicted. He bore the affliction of the cross, because when He appeared to His disciples after His resurrection Christ showed them the marks of this affliction.

Luke 24:40 "***...He shewed them His hands and His feet.*** These were affliction He endured for sinners He came to save. They were signing and sealing of the covenant of grace.

The last part of **Isaiah 53:4-5** "***...yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.***

Remember Joseph suffers as part of God's eternal purpose to save the nation, so Christ suffers as part of God's purpose to save sinners out of every nation.

Believer, your prison experience, may be a time of physical suffering, suffering of body, a thorn in the flesh like Paul, a physical limitation, headaches, pains, long covid, or what doctors cant detect, or sore that are severe, as Job suffered when he said in **Job 30:17** "***my bones are pierced in me in the night season...***"

Be assured the Lord knows about each and every one. He is the head we are the body, we are in union with Him, one with Him.

He took our humanity unto Himself, He suffered in body, to identify with you. He was afflicted for you. There is not a pain He

does not feel, a tear He does not see, a cry He does not hear. In any and every suffering He sympathises, support and sustains.

As we will look at more times, through Joseph's physical sufferings the Lord was with Joseph. The Lord is with you.

I said Joseph suffered in body and soul, physical and spiritual.

It is also interesting to note the words in **Psalm 105:18** "*..he was laid in iron, read in the Hebrew margin of your Bible, his soul came unto iron.*"

This is Hebrew imagery, poetry to speak of the soul, the inner man. It goes beyond physically what is seen but also what is unseen but known to God.

Joseph suffered inwardly, in soul, this was only known to God for He alone searches the heart.

What is striking that while man afflicted him physically, yet these sufferings physical and of soul, were authorised and permitted by God.

What a thought we have the sufferings of Christ not only in body but also of soul. Sufferings not only at the hand of man but also of God.

He was as **Isaiah 53:4** says "...*stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.*" **Isaiah 53:10** "*it pleased to the Lord to bruise Him.*" The word **bruise** means **to crush** It pleased to Lord to **bruise, crush, Him**. That's how strong the meaning is.

Words that we will never fully understand or take in this side eternity.

Christ as Son learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **Hebrews.5:8** *Though He were a Son yet learned He obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all*

them that obey Him. Not that he learned to obey as if was ever disobedient. He learned what it was to obey.

Likewise, believer, the Lord allows, permits His people to suffer times of affliction. Afflictions that we may never speak of sufferings that will always remain within the home, or church.

Maybe the events in your life are like gale force winds, things flying at you, around you from all angles. You keep it all close to heart.

You don't accuse God, but the affliction does play on your mind. like Joseph you have not been living in sin but living to honour God. Yet you experience a time of suffering.

God has many reasons for sufferings in our life, but one purpose our good and His glory. In our afflictions we see the attributes of God more clearly, His love, goodness, faithfulness and much more.

Peter said in **1 Peter 2:20** “ *...when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.*”

The word **acceptable** is the word **grace, loving kindness, favour**. Through your suffering, God has chosen to demonstrate His grace, love, favour through you.

As the Cross, through Christ suffering, God demonstrated His grace to sinners.

That is what happened in Joseph's and Christ life yeah even your life through suffering, God is advancing His cause, through many ways, people you meet, places you are present, path you travel to work, home. your suffering has been for a purpose.

It was prison Joseph meet a butler and baker and delivered God's message for them.

3 Painful because of the SORROWS he EXPRESSED.

As stated between **Gen 39:20, 40:3, Psalm 105:18,** Joseph is bound, and afflicted. But look again at the words of **Psalm 105:18** “*..he was laid in iron, meaning his soul came unto iron.* It is Hebrew imagery, poetry to speak of grief and sorrow of heart. The imagery is to feel, as if a literal iron bar went through him.

I'm sure you have heard the expression, or describing a feeling, it cut me like a knife, or it feels like something went through me. It causes sorrow of heart.

that's the idea. Joseph is bearing shame, suffering and he sorrows. He is humiliated, despised, rejected, and afflicted.

Again we think of one greater than Joseph, our heavenly Joseph, the Lord Jesus, Christ, who is as **Isaiah 53:3-4** states a “***man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: ...⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:*** In the garden of Gethsemane, alone, **Matthew 26:38** ***My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death*** Christ sorrowed more than any man.

Therefore, believer, Christ in our sorrow is our comfort.

Jeremiah said in **Lam 3:55** ***I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon.*** Go to Him in prayer He knows your every care. **1 Peter 5:7** ***Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you.*** I say to you, as Martha said to Mary as she expressed her sorrow, **John 11:28** “***...the master is come and calleth for thee.*** Spend time in His word and prayer, asking and receiving.