

Dealing with Frustration

Genesis 40:1 And it came to pass after these things, *that* the **butler** of the **king of Egypt** and *his* **baker** had offended their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was **wroth** against two *of* his officers, against the **chief of the butlers**, and against the **chief of the bakers**. 3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, **into the prison**, the place where **Joseph was bound**. 4 And the captain of the guard **charged Joseph with them**, and he **served** them: and they continued a season in ward. 5 And **they dreamed a dream** both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which *were* bound in the prison. 6 And **Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked** upon them, and, behold, **they were sad**. 7 And he asked Pharaoh's officers that *were* with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, **Wherefore look ye so sadly to day?** 8 And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and *there is* **no interpreter** of it. And Joseph said unto them, *Do* not interpretations *belong* to God?

tell me *them*, I pray you. **9** And the **chief butler told his dream** to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine *was* before me; **10** And in the vine *were* **three branches**: and it *was* as though it budded, *and* her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof **brought forth ripe grapes**: **11** And **Pharaoh's cup was in my hand**: and I took the grapes, and **pressed them into Pharaoh's cup**, and **I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand**. **12** And Joseph said unto him, This *is* the **interpretation of it**: The three branches *are* **three days**: **13** Yet within three days shall Pharaoh **lift up** thine head, and **restore thee unto thy place**: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, **after the former manner** when thou wast his butler. **14** But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and **shew kindness**, I pray thee, unto me, and **make mention of me unto Pharaoh**, and bring me out of this house: **15** For indeed **I was stolen away** out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have **I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon**. **16** When the **chief baker** saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also *was* in my dream, and,

behold, *I had* **three white baskets** on my head: **17** And in the uppermost basket *there was* of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and **the birds did eat them** out of the basket upon my head. **18** And Joseph answered and said, *This is* the interpretation thereof: **The three baskets are three days:** **19** Yet within **three days** shall Pharaoh **lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree;** and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee. **20** And it came to pass **the third day, which was** Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and **he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.** **21** And he **restored the chief butler** unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand: **22** But he **hanged the chief baker:** as Joseph had interpreted to them. **23 Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.**

- 3 days before one was lived up and another died reminds me of Jesus who died on a cross for us. He was dead 3 days and rose again

- In this story Joseph suffers for things that he didn't do to be used of God to save the very people who hurt him
- Being used of God usually entails God doing a work in our lives to get us to the end of ourselves
- Here Joseph, once the pampered favorite becomes a servant
- How much more blessed might we be if we became servants first to God then to others instead of expecting everyone to serve us

I. Joseph is suffering for circumstances that are out of his control **40:15--source of frustration--we want to control everything** For indeed **I was stolen away** out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have **I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.**

- A. He was stolen away out of his country
- B. He has done nothing wrong where he is
- C. He has been a slave or in jail now for something like 11 years
- D. He has controlled or dealt with what he could

1. His attitude
 - a) Towards his condition
 - b) Even towards his master
2. His work ethic
3. His continue relationship with God

E. What is your main source of frustration

1. You do not understand why this is happening to you
2. For the first time you cannot control nor even predict what is going to happen as a result of your actions
3. You feel like you are being abused and manipulated
4. You feel like maybe God isn't pleased with you and may be punishing you

II. He has been blessed but still very limited as a slave or prisoner--**we often lose sight of the blessings that we have**

- A. He became the main overseer in Potiphar's house **39:5**
*And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*

- B. He became the person in charge in the prison **39:22** *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.*
- C. He seems to have gained favor once again, at least to a degree, with Potiphar
1. The captain of the guard **37:36** *And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard. 39:1* *And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 40:3* *And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, **into the prison**, the place where **Joseph was bound**. 4* *And the captain of the guard **charged Joseph with them**, and he **served** them: and they continued a season in ward.*
 2. Not just the keeper of the prison **39:21** *But **the Lord** was **with Joseph**, and shewed him **mercy**, and gave him **favour** in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22* *And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's*

hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*. 23

The keeper of the prison **looked not to any thing that was under his hand**; because the Lord was with him, and *that* which he did, the Lord made *it* to prosper.

D. He has been given the special job of taking care of the King's servants 40:4 And the captain of the guard **charged Joseph with them**, and he **served** them: and they continued a season in ward.

E. Have you lost sight of your blessings

1. He has taken care of your daily bread Matthew 6:11
Give us this day our daily bread.

2. Your fears and worries are usually not about today
Matthew 6:34 **Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.**

3. Maybe God has provided for you but it hasn't been in the way you want or were accustomed to

III. He knows that he is still God's man, **so why is this happening to me**

- A. Do not interpretations belong to God **40:8** And they said unto him, *We have dreamed a dream, and there is **no interpreter** of it.* And Joseph said unto them, *Do not interpretations **belong** to God? tell me *them*, I pray you.*
- B. He interprets the dream of the butler **40:12** And Joseph said unto him, *This *is* the **interpretation of it:***
The three branches *are* **three days:** **13** Yet within three days shall Pharaoh **lift up** thine head, and **restore thee unto thy place:** and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, **after the former manner** when thou wast his butler.
- C. He interprets the dream of the baker **40:18** And Joseph answered and said, *This *is* the interpretation thereof: **The three baskets *are* three days:** **19** Yet within **three days** shall Pharaoh **lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree;** and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.*
- D. Maybe he remembers the dreams that he had **37:7** For, behold, *we were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my

sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

E. Maybe he remembers what he had and lost 37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many colours*.

F. Maybe he remembers how hard he has worked and yet it seems to have produced nothing

1. He kept a good attitude as a slave
2. He even kept a good attitude after being put in prison after being falsely accused

G. You have been faithful to God all this time

1. You stay in your Bible and prayer
2. You are faithful to worship and honor God even with your ever diminishing goods and money
3. You feel like Job and would like to just have an opportunity to ask God why

4. You have good intentions and have been doing right even when others didn't

IV. What Joseph did with his frustration--**dealing with your frustration**

- A. He obviously kept his **relationship with God**
- B. He kept **doing what he knew to do** where he was
- C. He **met the needs** of others even when he didn't see that his needs were being met or worried about
- D. He **presented his case** to the butler who would soon have the ear of the Pharaoh
 1. He didn't accuse anyone
 - a) Not his brothers
 - b) Not Potiphar's wife
 2. He simply ask for a review of his case--taking the obvious means at hand to present his condition
- E. By **handling the things** that God has placed in front of him he will eventually get deliverance
 1. What if he had of shown a bad attitude
 2. What if he had served in a rebellious manner
- F. He kept **believing and waiting** on God
 1. That is obvious from the story--he was blessed of God

2. He still knows that God gives him the interpretation
3. This is the actual gift that God will use to finally promote him though he still has no idea of that

G. **Trust God** to know that He will only do what is best for you

1. Looking back everything that Joseph has been through is **preparing him** for the future God has for him
2. Interpreting the dreams will open the door for him so the **investment in others will bring a return**
3. **Just do right and the best you can where you are**
4. An opening or need is coming that you are being made to fill
5. Remember that God has a plan for your life that you cannot see or understand
6. Know that God will work it all out for good

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.