

From Prison To The Palace

Genesis 40:1-4, 20-23; 41:37-41

I. Introduction:

- A. Story background – Joseph hated by his brothers, sold into slavery and falsely imprisoned.
- B. Prison does not have to be made of steel and cement. We can be emotional, financial, or spiritual.
 - 1. We are all prisoners in some shape or form:
 - a. Working hard just to be behind in the bills
 - b. A person who cannot get over the past hurt
 - c. Wanting to praise God but afraid of what others think
 - 2. A prison is any place that holds you captive or restricts your freedom. In other words, you want to leave but cannot.
 - 3. For example the Eagles- Welcome to the Hotel California. You can check out at anytime but you can never leave.
- C. The good news is your prison does not have to be the end of your journey. This story gives us three men with different destinies who met in prison:
 - 1. Joseph – prison *delayed* his blessing.
 - 2. The butler – prison *detoured* his blessing.
 - 3. The baker – prison *destroyed* his blessing.

Example: My flight was delayed but I still made it to my destination.

II. God's Spirit Resided In Joseph (v 38)

- A. The Spirit of God resided or lived inside of Joseph.
 - 1. In the O.T. the Spirit would come upon people to enable them to perform a work.
 - 2. For example, Samson would perform feats of strength and Gideon would lead the people into battle.
 - 3. But the Spirit of God resides in us to do a work in us.
- B. Even in prison the Spirit was with him therefore no matter what we are going through the Spirit of God is with us.
- C. That is why people took notice and made Joseph a trustee in the prison.
 - 1. He was blessed in the prison.
- D. What is inside of us gives us value and not the circumstances on the outside of us.

Example: Purchased perfume for wife for \$55 (Dolce & Gabbana) but the value was the perfume and not the container.

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III. God Revealed Information To Joseph (v 39)

- A. God does not want us to be ignorant so He reveals information to us.
 - 1. God reveals Himself and His truth to us through creation, prophets, the written Word and His Son.
 - 2. Scripture says, "My people perish from a lack of knowledge (revelation)".
- B. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams.
- C. In the N.T. we have the gifts of word of knowledge and word of wisdom. The church must understand that knowledge is power.

Example: Commercial "When EF Hutton speaks, people listen."

Example: Martha Stewart is a good example of a person violating insider trading laws. But God gives His children inside information to help us in life.

IV. God Rescued Joseph (Vv 40-41)

- A. Look at Joseph's circumstances in that he had no family to protest, no attorney to plead his case, no hope of parole, and forgotten by a friend.
- B. But God decided to rescue him from prison. In a matter of minutes Joseph is standing before the King of Egypt.
- C. God uses the King of Egypt to bless Joseph with *position*, *power* and *possessions*. Only God can move with such speed and power.

V. Conclusion

- A. Joseph understood God had a better destiny for him than being in prison so he persevered and was rescued.

Example: In the movie "Shawshank Redemption" Andy Duframe planned his escape.

- 1. He spent years digging a hole in his cell. Taking a little dirt out each day.
- 2. Then he had to crawl through a sewage line with urine, feces, disease, rats, and a strong odor.
- 3. At the end of the sewage line was his freedom so he continued to crawl.
- 4. Once he was out of the sewage line it began to rain and wash all of the urine, feces, and odor off him.
- 5. God sends the rain to wash away your bankruptcy, broken relationship, bad reputation, broken promises, disappointments, hurt and fear.
- 6. Keep on persevering through the stinking stuff of life because I smell the rain.