

Spring House Worship Center
Penllyn Pike & Dager Road
Spring House, PA 19477
Rev. Charles W. Quann, Pastor
Sunday Worship: 9:00 & 11:15 am
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm



Rev. Perkin Simpson, OBS Coordinator



Genesis 40

Key Thought

When life isn't fair we can trust that God is in control.

Overview

Previously, Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery and thrown in to prison after being wrongfully accused by Potiphar's wife. His life continued to seem unfair but God was with him each step of the way, providing the best opportunities despite facing unfavorable circumstances. He continued to put God at the center and trusted God's plan. Now God begins to reveal special and powerful gifts within Joseph, beyond what he believed he was capable of doing. Tough times offer us some of the best opportunities to grow in our faith while discovering new gifts.

Bible Study Outline

- 1."Interpretations belong to God"
2. The Butler's (Cupbearer's) dream
3. The Baker's dream
4. When others forget us, God never will.

Challenge

Have patience, God is still with you!

Genesis 40:1-23

1 Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended him. 2 Pharaoh became very angry with these officials, 3 and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of Potiphar, the captain of the guard. 4 They remained in prison for quite some time, and Potiphar assigned Joseph to take care of them.

5 One night the cup-bearer and the baker each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. 6 The next morning Joseph noticed the dejected look on their faces. 7 "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked. 8 And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but there is no one here to tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Tell me what you saw.

9 The cup-bearer told his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a vine in front of me. 10 It had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon there were clusters of ripe grapes. 11 I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took the grapes and squeezed the juice into it. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

12 "I know what the dream means," Joseph said. "The three branches mean three days. 13 Within three days Pharaoh will take you out of prison and return you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. 14 And please have some pity on me when you are back in his favor. Mention me to Pharaoh, and ask him to let me out of here. 15 For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in jail, but I did nothing to deserve it."

16 When the chief baker saw that the first dream had such a good meaning, he told his dream to Joseph, too. "In my dream," he said, "there were three baskets of pastries on my head. 17 In the top basket were all kinds of bakery goods for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them." 18 "I'll tell you what it means," Joseph told him. "The three baskets mean three days. 19 Three days from now Pharaoh will cut off your head and impale your body on a pole. Then birds will come and peck away at your flesh."

20 Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he gave a banquet for all his officials and household staff. He sent for his chief cup-bearer and chief baker, and they were brought to him from the prison. 21 He then restored the chief cup-bearer to his former position, 22 but he sentenced the chief baker to be impaled on a pole, just as Joseph had predicted. 23 Pharaoh's cup-bearer, however, promptly forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.

Scripture Text: KJV

Genesis 40:1-23

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.

Lesson: Utilize NLT

Background

Psalms 117, verses 17-19 reads as follows (NLT): "Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them – Joseph, who was sold as a slave. There in prison, they bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. Until the time came to fulfill his word, the LORD tested Joseph's character."

1. Interpretations belong to God

After offending the king, the chief butler (cup-bearer) and baker were thrown into prison. Deserved or not, we know that they ended up in the same prison as Joseph, who did not deserve his punishment. Despite being a prisoner himself, Joseph found favor with the chief guard in Potiphar's palace and was put in charge of the other prisoners, including these new prisoners now under his watch.

a. After noticing a dejected look on their faces one day, Joseph asked them what was wrong. What was their response (v. 8)? _____

b. What was Joseph's response to them (v. 8) _____

During those times, officers of the Pharaoh had access to the king's dream interpreters. God does speak to us through dreams, but the reliance on pagan men to interpret God's plan is useless. God may use others to speak to us, however, we must realize that the only way to understand God's purpose is to rely solely on Him.

2. The Butler's (Cupbearer's) dream

a. The butler first tells his dream to Joseph. What did that dream say (v. 9-11)? _____

Joseph had a favorable interpretation for this vision. This was a prophetic dream that foretold that the butler would be restored back to his old position in three days. When he was younger, Joseph himself had a dream, but was not in a position to interpret it himself. The interpretation of dreams was a new gift that God had bestowed upon him.

b. Joseph asked the butler a favor. What was it (v. 14)? _____

3. The Baker's dream

Hearing the good news of the butler's dream, the baker was encouraged to tell Joseph his dream.

a. Describe the baker's dream (v.).? _____

b. The interpretation of the dream was not as favorable. What was to happen to the baker (v.)? _____

Conclusion:

Joseph's interpretations were accurate. The butler was restored to his position and the baker was killed just as predicted. Once free, the butler forgot all about Joseph, including his request to ask Pharaoh to free him. Joseph was still in jail wearing chains and fetters. Man may have forgotten him, but God never forgets his children. Whatever you are going through, just remember, God is with you and he has NOT forgotten you.

