

## The Life of Joseph: Week 7 - Chapter Six: Promoted in Prison

Joseph is an example of the kind of person that God wants all believers to be as they navigate through all of life's ups & downs. Joseph is also an example of how God will use all of life's ups & downs to forge us into the kind of person He wants us to be!

The years in prison reflect the 7 years of famine which are to come. In prison, Joseph will learn the disciplines needed to work diligently during years of little, and years of despair. He will also learn how to be compassionate towards criminals.

### Part 1: Joseph, Diligent in Despair (Gen 39:20-23)

As in Potiphar's house, Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_ in prison was not primarily owing to Joseph, but rather to the Lord. However, Joseph's positive response to his \_\_\_\_\_ and his trust in the Lord was also a \_\_\_\_\_ of this blessing.

Again, the Lord blessed Joseph's labor because Joseph was passing the 'second test'. That is; in spite of all that happened to him, Joseph was choosing to believe the Lord & work diligently unto the Lord.

(1) Joseph did not allow his suffering to \_\_\_\_\_ his faith/attitude/outlook/effort etc.  
-His situation did not \_\_\_\_\_ his personal character.

(2) Joseph walked faithfully with God in every setting that he was in.  
-His location did not determine his \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord.

(3) Joseph was a benefit & a blessing to everyone he came into contact with.  
-Other's personalities, other's situations & sin, did not affect him...and he was a benefit to all.

### Part 2: Joseph, Caring for Criminals (Gen 40:1-7)

God intends for Joseph to meet Pharaoh, interpret his dreams and save the world from the coming famine. God also could get Joseph to Pharaoh any way that He pleases...

**Why would God allow the path to Pharaoh to be so painful, \_\_\_\_\_ & long?  
Because the Lord has something to teach Joseph along the way!**

The Lord doesn't want Joseph to simply arrive at the \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
He wants Joseph to be certain kind a man when he arrives at Pharaoh's court!

**By allowing Joseph to be put in prison...**

Joseph was being shown how to manage \_\_\_\_\_ times of \_\_\_\_\_ and he was being prepared to deal graciously with criminals. These skills will be needed; as his criminal brothers will come to town seeking food during a time of despair.

**Personal Notes:**

Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ take notice of his brother's troubled reaction to his own dream...but now he \_\_\_\_\_ notices the troubled reaction of Pharaoh's servants to their own dreams.

**It is this very act of noticing their pain which will be his passport out of prison!**

### Part 3: Joseph, Future Foretold (Gen 40:7-22)

Here we get another suggestion that during the caravan ride to Egypt, God revealed some portion of the meaning of Joseph's dreams to him.

**By Joseph's statements, he show us what he already knows:** God communicates in dreams. Only God gives the proper meaning. God will give Joseph the meaning. His own two dreams are the only recorded experience which could have given Joseph the knowledge that he has about God & dreams. An argument could be made that divine interpretations of Joseph's own dreams are the reason he knows the things he knows.

It is my belief that this knowledge and not Joseph's own \_\_\_\_\_ ...was the basis of Joseph's relationship with God and his ability to remain positive in suffering, \_\_\_\_\_ in sexual temptation and productive in prison.

The numerical elements in each dream represent time. Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ that in three days the cupbearer will be restored to his post and the baker will be executed. This is a bold \_\_\_\_\_ as in three days, everyone will know whether or not Joseph is a senseless lunatic or a servant of The Lord.

Joseph asks the cupbearer to remember him before the King when his dream comes true. This is another hint that Joseph has some understanding of the notion that his journey will go all the way to Pharaoh's court.

Even though Joseph was walking faithfully with the Lord during suffering...Joseph also yearned for that \_\_\_\_\_ to end...And it was within God's \_\_\_\_\_ for him to lay the ground work to escape the suffering.

## Chapter Six: Life Lessons

**#1** Our relationship with the Lord must be the most important thing to us...Because it is the most important thing. When troubles and trials come, oftentimes, our relationship with the Lord is the only thing we have left. **Will it be a strong enough of a bond to see us through?**

**#2** By the help of the Holy Spirit we must strive to be the \_\_\_\_\_ person, with the \_\_\_\_\_ faith and the \_\_\_\_\_ character in all of life's ups & downs.

**#3** By the help of the Holy Spirit we must strive to be a \_\_\_\_\_ and a blessing to all we come in contact with; no matter what \_\_\_\_\_ we may find ourselves in.

**#4** We must realize that in all of life's circumstances God is wanting to grow our faith in Him and in His promises. He will also likely use the very elements of the situation which we are in to refine us in specific or according ways.

**#5** In life's delay's, don't discount The Lord's perfect sovereignty & divine goodness.

**He knows what He is doing and He can be trusted.** Discouragement may cause us to overlook the purpose of it and the passport out of it!