



## Lesson #4: Forgotten, but not Forsaken (Gen. 39:19-40:23)

Have you ever found yourself in such a long extended trial that you do wonder where God is? At this point in his story Joseph must have been tempted to think like that. He is 28 years old and this trial has now extended for \_\_\_\_ years. There's been some valley's and some peaks but it's pretty much just been extended trial. Joseph has gone from the pit his brothers through him into, to the palace that Potiphar lived in, right back to the pit of a prison. It's very likely that Joseph started chapter 39 in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Pharaoh's house and ended chapter 39 in the \_\_\_\_\_ where Pharaoh's prisoners were kept.

The path of life leads into prison situations from time to time. We all face hardships and trials. This is the way of life. Sometimes we feel like we are shut up, shut down, and shut off and in the bottom of the pit we feel forgotten. But Joseph's life demonstrates very clearly that **God is as much at work in your life when you are \_\_\_\_\_ as he is when you are \_\_\_\_\_.**

### IN THE MIDST OF THE PIT REMAIN \_\_\_\_\_ (40:1-5)

#### A. **Serve God because He is \_\_\_\_\_**

This means that God is "all-together other than us" and it causes us to have this awe of Him because He is so great and powerful.

#### B. **Serve God because He is \_\_\_\_\_**

This means that god is "full present in the physical world and fully accessible to His creatures."

If you have a God who was imminent without transcendence you would have a god who just a \_\_\_\_\_ who had no real \_\_\_\_\_. If God was just transcendent without having imminence He would basically just be a \_\_\_\_\_. But we have neither, we have a God who is both altogether distinct from us and fully available to us. Let's practice something. Just meditate on the truth that God is always with you. How would that change your serving? How might that altar your attitude in the pit?

### IN THE MIDST OF THE PIT REMAIN \_\_\_\_\_ (40:6-7)

#### A. **Be sensitive to others by caring about their \_\_\_\_\_ (40:6)**

What's amazing to me at the outset is that in this middle of this nasty situation Joseph still noticed the needs of others. "*(He) looked upon them, and behold they were \_\_\_\_\_.*" Joseph has been through an 11 year trial! Is he really picking up on other people's mood swings!?

#### B. **Be sensitive to others by pointing them to \_\_\_\_\_ (40:8)**

Joseph is not only sensitive he is also God-conscious. He tells the Butler and the Baker that interpretations of dreams only come from God. He is really giving an in-your-face \_\_\_\_\_ of the idolatrous culture of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. **Be sensitive to others by telling them the \_\_\_\_\_ (40:9-19)**

I'm thinking that the Baker's interpretation was probably a more difficult one to give. Everybody likes to give the good news like the good news to the Butler – "You are going to get your job back!" But then you look at the Baker and have to say, "You are going to lose your \_\_\_\_\_." What I see in Joseph's life was a confidence in God but he had no desire to play politics or patronize the Butler and the Baker. \_\_\_\_\_ is a real temptation when you are going through suffering because you want someone to commiserate with you.

### IN THE MIDST OF THE PIT REMAIN \_\_\_\_\_

The mystery of divine providence is that we only see \_\_\_\_\_ of the puzzle but God sees the whole \_\_\_\_\_. There are going to be times along the way when it seems like God has forgotten all about you. There will be times when it seems that your \_\_\_\_\_ have been derailed too. There will be times when you find yourself in the waiting room of life. What you do there has a great deal to do with what the Lord will do with you \_\_\_\_\_. Your duty in all the pits and prisons of life is to actively seek ways to glorify Him (1 Corinthians 10:31).

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

As a believer I always have this promise in trials.

1. He's always with me – \_\_\_\_\_
2. He's always powerful – \_\_\_\_\_
3. He's working all this for good – \_\_\_\_\_

So where does your trial fit in God's over-all plan? Here's the good news: God has a plan for you and Philippians 1:6 says, "He that hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Some of us need to know this morning on a very individual level that God is as much at work in your life when you are suffering as He is when you are prospering.