

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 13th November 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles, Ps/Hymns Ps 103:1-7
Kilmarnock, 281 Rowan Tree, 279, 302 Read: Genesis
41:1-14 Text Genesis 41:14

Series: Joseph (37) Title: Joseph's Deliverance A Picture of
Salvation

Throughout our study in the life of Joseph, it has been our desire to take lessons from Joseph's life as a child of God, and see the many different challenges and experiences that he endured.

The reason being, as born-again believers we will face the same trials as Joseph, such as sorrow, bereavement, betrayal, persecution, temptation, false accusations, but also enjoy times of blessing.

There will be valleys and mountain top experiences.

We take encouragement from Joseph, he was a man subject to like passions as are, we identify with him in many ways, and take comfort from his life, because the path that Joseph was called to walk, the Lord was with Him.

We want to look beyond an earthly Joseph, look beyond ourselves and consider a heavenly Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ.

A greater than Joseph, look at the humiliation and exaltation of Christ as picture through Joseph's life.

Joseph's life points to Christ in so many ways.

(The Bible commentator A W Pink believes there are 101 parallels between Joseph and Christ.)

While there is no perfect type of Christ, yet there are clear lines of thought, spiritual lessons from Joseph's life that we see in Christ.

But for today, as we consider Joseph's life, he has been in prison, and forgotten for many years, then remembered, and in the passage before us, **Joseph is delivered from prison.**

Joseph's deliverance from prison gives us a picture, an object lesson of the deliverance of sinners from the prison to which they had been bound.

I FIRST, JOSEPH WAS CONFINED

Ch 39:20 summarizes all that takes place from when Joseph entered prison until **ch 41:14.**

Ch 39:20, *Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.*

The word **bound** means *to confined*.

Psalm 105:18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters:

Joseph was a prisoner bound, confined to a dungeon, there was no escape. The word prison also translates as dungeon, the pit or a well. The idea of a whole deep down, a miserable place.

In fact this word **dungeon** or **prison** is the same word David uses in **Psalm 40**, to describe the deep bondage and burden of his sin, he calls in **verse 2** *an horrible pit*.

You can say **an horrible dungeon, prison, a well.** David continued his description, calling it *the miry clay*, sinking and stuck in it.

Believer, before you were saved by the grace of God, this was once your lost estate, confined to the dungeon of sin, in ***an horrible pit***, a pool of corruption and covered in dirt, where there was no escape.

You were unable to free yourself from sin's power, you were unable to unbound yourself from its chains.

You were unable to set yourself free.

This is what Paul pictured when he reminded the believers at Galatia, that before they were saved, they were confined to the sin's prison house, they were prisoners spiritually speaking.

Notice the words in **Gal 3:22-23** *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.²³ But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed*

Paul uses the term "*before faith came.*" The term means "*before faith in Christ, or before faith in the promise of Christ.*"

Before you had faith in Christ notice **verse 22** "*the scripture hath concluded all under sin...*"

the word, **concluded** in the original reads **to be shut up**. The *idea* is to shut up securely, enclosing on all sides with no way of escape.

To help see the meaning of this word **concluded or shut up**, notice another occasion where it is used.

In **Luke 5** when the disciples were fishing, they cast out their nets and in **verse 6** we read "*they inclosed a great multitude of fishes....*" It is the word **inclosed**, meaning **concluded or shut up**.

The fish were caught, captured, shut up by the net. They were imprisoned by the net. There was no way of escape while in the net.

Furthermore, the words **concluded -shut up are in the continuous tense**, meaning, all men as a result of their sin against God, are continually, daily shut up in spiritual jail, the prison house of sin. Held Hostage to sin, a servant of unrighteousness.

They are continually held as prisoners to the curse or penalty of the law which is eternal death.

That is the present condition of every person who is not saved by grace, such are spiritual prisoners, bound by sin, closed in, powerless, and helpless.

David describing all humanity, said in **Psalm 51:5** ***Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me***

Since our nature is sinful then our practises will naturally as **Jeremiah 13:23** states ***be accustomed to do evil,*** because Paul said in **Hebrew 11:6** ***without faith it is impossible to please God.***

Deliverance from the dungeon must come from one stronger than us.

The good news of the Gospel is this, Jesus Christ the strong man, He alone has power to break the chains of sin, and set the prisoner free.

Believer, Christ is our deliverer, He has set us free. Like Hannah, We rejoice in the LORD of our salvation.

II SECOND, JOSEPH WAS CALLED

“Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon...”

Joseph was bound, but the King called Joseph with authority and he was brought out.

Pharaoh, sent his officers to bring Joseph to him. This verse is packed with wonderful words with spiritual application.

The word **called**, is the standard word **to call something** or in this case a person.

Joseph was called purposefully -

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph... the word **sent** has the idea **sent with a purpose**. Pharaoh calls Joseph with a purpose. He sends officials to Joseph with a purpose. The purpose was to interpret the dream. Therefore, Pharaoh calls Joseph for himself.

Joseph was called personally

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph... Notice that Joseph was called directly. He was called personally by name.

Joseph was called particularly

“Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon...”

Being a prison there were other prisoners, bound, chained having offended Pharaoh.

However, Pharaoh among the prisoners, Joseph was chosen, and called particularly.

Joseph was called powerfully.

“Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon...” **Psalm 105:20** ***The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.***

Only Pharaoh had authority and power in the land to free Joseph, not even Potiphar had power to free Joseph unless Pharaoh gave the orders.

Joseph was brought out hastily. The phrase ***brought him hastily*** means ***to run, or ran, they made him run quickly.***

Once Joseph was called, he was quickly brought out, quickly delivered from the dungeon from the pit, from the deep well.

Make no mistake Joseph was not forced against his will, he did not come out of prison kicking and screaming, shouting I want to stay, rather he came quickly.

Joseph was called out of the dungeon.

Putting these thoughts together, **believer** there is clear picture when we were brought out of sins' prison house, we were called, we ran or came speedily out from sin's domain by the voice of God.

He called by name and we followed Him.

The apostle through his writings, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, made mention, of this very truth, He wrote of his own conversion to Christ, in **Galatians 3** and at the end of **verse 15** in reference to God who, "**called me by His grace.**"

Such a call is often termed as effectually calling. Such a call is effective or what is termed effectual calling.

The **SC 31** "**Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the Gospel.**"

In gospel preaching there is a general call, an audible call that all in the gathering hear, but among such the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit moves in hearts and it pleases Him to single out and call certain individuals specifically by name, giving them power to become the sons of God.

Psalm 110:3 ***Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power,*** just as Christ visited the tomb of Lazarus, He spoke commanding the one dead, to come forth, and he did, or as He opened the heart of Lydia,

so Christ visits spiritually dead sinners, and speaks with a voice that makes His people hear, He opens their hearts, and they come forth into newness of life. **Psalm 146:7** "***The LORD looseth the prisoners...***" ***The King sets sinners free.***

Paul is stating, by grace, the Lord **called me**, He directed His call to my heart and it was effectual. Christ had been dealing with his heart.

Such was the convicting power of the spirit upon Paul's heart, that when the Lord called him on the Damascus Road he was humbled by it and was brought to surrender to Christ.

We read of that divine call in Acts 9.4 indicates, "**And he ... heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**"

It is interesting to note that Paul was not alone, on the Damascus road. **Acts 9.7** – the men who journeyed with Paul heard "**a voice**," yet they did not understand what was being said.

Acts 22.9 states that Paul's companions "**heard not the voice of him that spake**." Is there a contradiction here? No, because the Lord was speaking personally to Paul.

Acts 26.14 reveals that the Lord spake in the Hebrew language – "**I heard a voice speaking unto me & saying in the Hebrew tongue, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?'**"

Now, all who accompanied Paul would have been Jews and would have known the Hebrew language, yet they did not understand what was being said.

They heard the sound of a voice, they knew that someone was speaking, they fell to the ground with Paul, and they were deeply affected for they were left speechless, but only Paul was converted.

Why? Because the voice from heaven that day was for him alone.

The Lord by His marvellous grace and mercy singled out Paul, spoke to him from heaven and converted him.

Paul's point is this, if God had not called him by His grace, he would still be a persecutor of the church.

He would still have a hatred against Christ and all His people. He would still be held in religious bondage seeking works as a way to enter heaven. However, God, "**called me by His grace.**"

And while the Lord no longer speaks audibly from heaven as He did to Paul.

Yet He still speaks from heaven but through the Scriptures, the written Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit directly calling to the hearts of men and woman.

You hear His voice as His word is preached or read.

Here then, is a great encouragement to our hearts, that the Lord only needs speak from heaven calling sinners by grace.

*Pray to that end & may the Lord be pleased to speak to sinners in this very meeting, calling them by His grace, **to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered in the Gospel.**"*

Had King Pharaoh not sent and called for Joseph, he would have remained in the dungeon.

Believer, had the King of Kings, not sent for us and called us by name out of the horrible pit and miry clay, we would still be sinking deep in sin, but praise the Lord, when no one but Christ could help, He lifted us.

Among fallen sinners, He chose us and called us unto Himself, a peculiar people. It is Christ, as **Co 1:13** states ***Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son***

III THIRD, JOSEPH WAS CLOTHED

“...and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.”

Joseph received new clothes. He exchanged his prison garments for new garments. The word **raiment**, means ***to wrap around, a covering, a garment, clothes.***

Keep in mind, Joseph has been in prison for years. So, the raiment or garment that he puts on has been provided for him by another.

There is another picture and lesson in salvation.

Believer in our sin we wore the filthy rags of unrighteousness, garments stained by sin, The clothes of sin's prison house.

But when the King called us by name, and brought us out of the dungeon, He provided new raiment, new clothing to enter into His presence.

There was a great exchange, ruined rags for righteous robes.

We see this taught again by type when the Lord said about Joshua the high priest in **Zechariah 3:4** ***“Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.”***

Notice the Prophet Isaiah described this raiment in **Isa 61:10** ***“... He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.***

Jesus Christ is as **Jeremiah 33:16** states is ***“the LORD our righteousness.”***

The clothing is entitled the righteousness of Christ because it is reward of His obedience to God's law honouring its precepts, by

His sinless life, His perfect body, and paying its penalty by His substitutional death, His precious blood.

When it is received by faith, the believing sinner now wears what Christ earned, the obedience of Christ, and is viewed and treated by God as having pleased Him. We are accepted by God in Christ.

That means unsaved, outside of Christ, you are still in your filthy garments you are unclean, uncovered, unacceptable, and unaccepted by God,

you must obey the gospel, ask Jesus to have mercy upon you and receive the garment provided by God for sinners.