

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 15th May 2022 Hymns Psalm 23, 203, 280 Read: Genesis 39:1-7 Text Genesis 39:1-7

Series: Joseph (20) Title: Joseph a Servant in Egypt (1)

Genesis chapter 39 continues where chapter 37 leaves of. Joseph was sold by his brethren to the Ishmaelite's who then sold him to Potiphar an officer of Pharaoh.

Who was this man Potiphar. His name and title is given here in ch 39:1 but also Ch 37:36.

(the word **officer** can mean **eunuch, chamberlain, couturier, and officer.**)

He is a government official.

Potiphar was a man of responsibility, accountability and great authority. He answered to the highest power of the land, humanly speaking.

He took care of the Pharaoh's business. He had power with Pharaoh, he had the kings ear and favour.

he is the captain of the guard. If you have a margin in your Bible, These words can be read **the chief of the slaughtermen, or chief of executioners.**

As the head of Pharaoh's military army, he carried out the punishments ordered by Pharaoh, against all who lost his favour. He had power and authority according to **verse 20** to put people in jail.

Potiphar is a busy man, and sees that Joseph is for sale. **Psalm 105:17** states Joseph is **sold for a servant**: Potiphar bought Joseph for the purpose to be served by Joseph.

Now it is clear that while Potiphar is a high ranking official yet he is an ungodly man. Joseph is now brought into this man's house,

a place where Christ is not spoken of, to serve to work to do Potiphar's bidding.

Verse 2 describes Potiphar as Joseph's **master**. If you like his employer. His boss.

There is a wonderful lesson in Joseph's situation for our lives believer.

Because God uses Joseph's life to teach that we are enabled and empowered to live godly in a world surrounded by the wickedness and temptation.

Joseph now works for Potiphar, though Pharaoh is the law of the land, but above serving Potiphar and Pharaoh, Joseph is still serving God.

Never lose sight of that truth. While Joseph will do his work for men yet above all he does his work unto the Lord.

Paul said to the believers in **Eph 6:5** ***Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ.***

(Col 3:22-23 ***“Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”***)

Remember in the Bible Egypt is a type or illustration of the world, enemies to face, spiritual bondage, false religions, Philosophical educational system, distractions, temptations, treasures and pleasures. Its wicked rulers and government officials.

That is a lesson for us to grasp, you believer live in this your Egypt, a place where sin abounds. Your work place may not be Christian friendly, your school accepts and promotes everything in opposition to God's word.

your boss, teacher, colleague, may not be a Christian, he or she may not be the easiest person to get along with.

Your work environment may not be the easiest place to be, Your transport journey may be unpleasant at times.

yet God has placed you there in His providence to live godly, be a light in a dark place, to witness of Christ by your life in its actions, attitude, atmosphere, work, as we will see Joseph did.

Like, Joseph when it is God's time to move you on from that place, He will do it. God has a redemptive purpose where He places you and the length of time He keeps you there.

Remember, before God exalts Joseph, Joseph must walk the lonely path of humiliation. God is preparing Joseph for a future day when He will provide and preserve the nation from death by famine.

See Christ in all of this. In a future day, Christ the redeemer of His people will come through that nation, the tribe of Judah.

God is working in your life, situation, the job he has placed you, the people who surrounded you, the school where you learn, the teachers who educate, it's not for nothing, God is preparing you but also has you at His witness. He has a purpose of redemption and Judgement.

You are the very proof that the gospel changes lives.

Above all think of Jesus Christ the greatest servant of God, the perfect and pure servant. He came to this world, and submitted Himself to its rulers and laws, yet He did so to please God and provide salvation.

As we consider Joseph a servant in Egypt, may our eyes behold Christ the greatest servant learn ourselves to be faithful servants .

I FIRST, JOSEPH WAS A DESIGNATED SERVANT IN EGYPT.

When Joseph was bought by Potiphar to be his servant, as **verse 4** states "**he served him...**"

Joseph was designated a place of service by Potiphar notice **verse 3** "**he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.**"

Verse 5 “... *he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had,* **Verse 6** *And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand...*”

Joseph purpose was to do what jobs were required of him. the lowest and most challenging of tasks. Joseph was a slave, a servant.

Therefore, believer as we live in this world, our spiritual Egypt, God has designated each of his people to particular places at particular times.

Remember when the children of Judah were taken into Captivity, in Babylon, they lived in a pagan society.

In thinking of Daniel, he lived in Babylon most of his life, he was certainly there for the whole 70 years captivity.

He entered Babylon a teenager and by the time the 70 years captivity was ended Daniel was over 90. During his time in Babylon, he lives under different rulers, yet all ungodly.

In **Daniel 6**, King Darius has taken the Kingdom, and as he set about establishing his kingdom, and officers, **verses 1-2** *it pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; ² And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.*

Daniel was promoted to the highest position in the land, designated a job *that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.* That means the kingdom would be run in such a way to honour the King.

Daniel would make sure all was well, that all the works and money tax and affairs of the Kingdom where up to date, so that the Kings name might not be dishonoured.

That his enemies would have nothing to blaspheme him concerning the affairs of the kingdom. The King took pride in his kingdom.

Daniel was designated to serve in the kingdom that King Darius would have no damage.

Joseph was designated to serve in Potiphar's house to oversee all the affairs of the house, to run it well.

Here is the point Daniel in serving in Babylon, or Joseph a servant in serving Potiphar his master was in fact serving God. Their service was in the sight of God, the KING of kings.

Therefore, believer God has saved you to serve Him. We are designated in this world, to serve, that Christ's name should have no damage.

He has given assignments concerning the affairs of His kingdom, which we are to run well for His glory. we are to be faithful in the Lord business. He has a purpose for our lives. Whenever God has placed you, He has done so providently.

That purpose extends to your secular employment, schooling and even in serving in church ministry, children's & youth works, outreach ministry, the smallest of tasks,

It may involve the lowest of task, hard work, challenging days, but whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Serve to the best of your ability.

If you work among other so called Christians who are into everything, and anything, they cheat, lie, steal, hide, get out of work, and are not honouring God, then be a mighty fortress for God, be a good example, be that uncompromising wall, that no matter what comes upon you, stand strong in the Lord, you are salt among corruption,

As Paul said in **Colossians 3:24** "**Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance for ye serve the Lord Christ.**"

The Lord Jesus Christ, when He came to world of sin, He came with a designated purpose, that was to serve God by serving sinners. **Matthew 20:28** Christ declares that He "...**came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life a**

ransom for the many.” The words **ministered and minister** means **service, serve**. Christ served with the purpose to call sinners unto Himself.

Fallen men and woman are the objects of His Service. His life was presented to God on behalf of sinners; He gave Himself for sinners He had chosen to save and to secure their redemption.

This is the very sum and substance of the mission of Jesus Christ is His coming to give His life that He might stand in the place of those for whom He died. He came on purpose to give His life.

I FIRST, JOSEPH WAS A DESIGNATED SERVANT IN EGYPT.

II SECOND, JOSEPH WAS A DISTINGUISHED SERVANT IN EGYPT.

Joseph having spent time in Potiphar’s house serving, it was clear to Potiphar there was something different about Joseph, his house was blessed for Joseph’s sake.

Joseph was a distinguished servant he was set apart from all others, including previous servants. Joseph exceeds them all.

Potiphar watched Joseph in **verse 3** “**his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.**”

Potiphar examines Joseph’s life.

He marks him out, and as a result he promotes Joseph to overseer of Potiphar's house. He has noticed that Joseph is successful in his work.

Joseph never lived be better than everyone else. Rather, he lived in Egypt working for Potiphar, as he was when in His Father presence. Being in Egypt didn’t change anything in his character. Joseph didn’t go of the rails.

Potiphar could see the difference in Joseph’s character between him and the others, whether servants or men in the ranks.

Once again think about Daniel, King Darius seen something different in Daniels's life compared to other around him. Daniel stood out. **Daniel 6:1** ***"Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm"***.

The word **preferred** means **distinguished** the idea is **to exhibit, to shine, or show a difference**. This should be the goal of every believer in daily life. The idea is to indicate difference by some external mark. It is to make something out, set it apart.

For instance, the farmer distinguishes sheep by their ears or sprays some colour code of them. In the eyes of Darius Daniel was marked out, **preferred, distinguished** above all others,

The reason being Daniel was filled with the Spirit, and lived a life controlled by the Spirit.

in fact when jealous men of the Kingdom tried to find fault with Daniel they examined his work, was he lazy, did he cut corners, was there any dishonesty, **verse 4** ***"...they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.***

The same with Joseph, Potiphar has marked him out. There is a difference about Joseph and how he does things, works and conducts himself.

There is no slackness, no laziness. By Joseph's arrival and presence things are increasing. He was the best servant he could be. His conduct was above reproach. He was honest in all his dealings. He was spirit filled the Lord was with Him.

Whatever manner Joseph performed his work, Potiphar was impressed and Joseph found favour in his sight.

Joseph gives all of us a lesson on how work on the job or apply ourselves to school, in church ministry, or any other place to serve God, be filled with the Spirit.

Before you leave the house and during the day, as for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. every hour meets a new challenge and requires a new response, you need the Lord.

When the Lord is with you, that will be seen in applying ourselves fully, presenting ourselves well, no excuses, because you not only represent your work, school, church you represent Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ was the ultimate distinguished servant, He was marked out as the Saviour of sinners, who served by the power of God. There is no other Saviour. **Acts 10:38** "***God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power...***"

Andrew said ***We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.***

John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. He lay down His life. Pilate said in find no fault in Him. It was said of Christ upon the Cross, ***Truly this was the Son of God.***

Christs purpose was to glorify God in His life, ministry, death, and all He did pleased the Lord, and therefore, believer, seek Christ likeness.

Unsaved one, there is no other Saviour, only Christ is set apart, none can be compared to Him. If you are ever to enter heaven at death, have your sins forgiven in life, it will only be the result of asking Jesus to forgive your sin.