

Genesis 39:21-40:23

A Matter of Interpretation

In any circumstance ...

I. Integrity Imprisoned

- A. God's Kindness
- B. Joseph's Standing

II. Two Miserable Offenders

- A. Profoundly Troubled
- B. Providentially Placed

III. God's Interpreter

- A. Setting things Straight
- B. Two Heads Lifted
- C. A Simple Request

IV. Learning from the Prisoners

- A. The Dual Dreamers
- B. The Irrepressible Inmate

... learn to abound.

Children, listen ...

1. How did Joseph stay strong in Jail?
2. Who showed Joseph what the two men's dream was about?
3. What happened to the cupbearer? The baker?
4. What did Joseph ask the cupbearer to do?
5. How could Joseph have patience even though he was a prisoner?

Heads Lifted Up from the Dungeon

How do you suppose the three cellmates heightened in the text processes their respective situations. When the cupbearer heard that he was spared did he praise God for it? We have not word on that. When the baker heard of his demise did he cry out to God for mercy upon receipt of his soul? No word. We really don't know what we did or what kind of pastoral counsel Joseph was able to provide for the two men who were providentially placed in his path. The one we can make reasonable assumptions about is Joseph because we know something of his character and the character of the God he trusted. We can gather that he was at peace because he knew he was in God's favor despite his circumstances.

Be assured he was a man of prayer – that his hope was in the Lord – and that combination gave him the ability to persevere in the face of tribulation. The cupbearer's head was lifted back to his place of service, the baker was lifted by his head from a scaffold, but Joseph's was lifted up to look always to the God of heaven where he found refuge in his trials.

Psalm 3:3 But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.