

# Getting Free from the Other Prison

Genesis 41:46 And Joseph was **thirty years old** when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt. 47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for *it was* without number. 50 And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On bare unto him. 51 And Joseph called the name of the firstborn

**Manasseh:** For **God**, *said he*, **hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's**

**house.** 52 And the name of the second called he **Ephraim:** For **God** hath **caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**

- People are locked in more than one kind of prison
- Many people hurt because they live nursing their hurts in the past to the point that they can't enjoy the present or the future

## I. From prison to prosperity

A. In one day [41:37](#) And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. [38](#) And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*? [39](#) And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is* none so discreet and wise as thou *art*: [40](#) Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. [41](#) And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. [42](#) And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; [43](#) And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him *ruler* over all the land of Egypt. [44](#) And

Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I *am* Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. 45 And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath-paaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Poti-pherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over *all* the land of Egypt.

1. He went from a falsely accused prisoner to a respected and honored political and spiritual leader
2. He went from prisoner and jail worker to second in command of the country
3. He went from prison clothes to a prince's clothes
4. He was given a new name, a wife and total freedom

B. God gave great harvests 41:47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which *was* round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for *it was* without number.

C. Though he had achieved success the question would be how did he deal with all the bad things that had happened to him

1. Brothers that hated and mistreated him
2. How other slaves or prisoners may have treated him
3. Being falsely accused by Potiphar's wife

D. God gave him a son that made him forget his past

**41:51**--Manasseh **And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.**

E. God gave him a son that reminded him that God had made him fruitful in the land of his affliction **41:52**

Ephraim **And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**

II. How Joseph had suffered a type of prison

A. Horribly mistreated by his brothers

1. They hated him and considered killing him

- a) He was the baby brother
- b) He was only 17 years old
- 2. They threw him in a pit
- 3. They sold him as a slave
- B. Hauled away by slave traders
  - 1. What do you think where the conditions in lived in?
  - 2. How did the other prisoners treat a young boy?
- C. Taken to the home of Potiphar as a slave
- D. Falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and thrown in jail
- E. His hopes were dashed after he interpreted the dreams of the butler
- F. He lives for two more years in jail forgotten

### III. How Joseph got free from the prison of bitterness

- A. A description of the prison of bitterness
  - 1. Bitterness causes you to blame others as well as your past
  - 2. Bitterness literally causes you to have no present or future only a past
  - 3. Bitterness will cause you to be bitter and spiteful
  - 4. Bitterness will cause you to build walls in your heart

5. Bitterness will cause you to remember all too well all that was done against you
  6. Bitterness will make you a skeptical person and make it hard for you to trust people
  7. Your bitterness and hurt will cause what happened to you to become your identity
  8. Bitterness will cause you not to want to forget
  9. Bitterness will cause you to focus on that one thing so much that you begin to be like what you hate
  10. The bitterness will cause you to focus on yourself to the point that it is all about you and nothing about what God is doing
- B. Bitterness and the inability or lack of desire to forgive causes you to be placed in prison of your own making at the hand of tormentors **Matthew 18:34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.**
1. The sinner seeks forgiveness for himself
  2. The forgiven that can't forgive
- C. He doesn't try to blame those who hurt him or seek vengeance only deliverance **40:15 For indeed I was stolen**

away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.

- D. He doesn't allow what has happened to him to cause a bad attitude etc
- E. He realized that the story of his life wasn't about him
- F. He doesn't play the victim
- G. He didn't want his suffering to become the defining moment of his life

#### IV. Steps you can take today

- A. Remember to change what you think about

**Philippians 4:8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

- B. Though you can't forget necessarily what happened to you --you can replace the negative thoughts with other thoughts **II Corinthians 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the

knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

1. It was worth it
2. God had a purpose
3. An all powerful God would not have allowed this to happen if it weren't for His glory and good though I may not understand

C. Enjoy what you have now--his family

1. Let your blessings today become more dear to you than your hurts from yesterday
2. Don't sacrifice the enjoyment of what God has given you today because you are so focused on your past

D. Decide to forget so that your hurt doesn't become your identity

E. Don't allow all the trouble and bitterness to make you sterile

F. Learn to see the greater purpose--why God used what they did for a greater cause

G. Forget those things which are behind and reach for the things before you **Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do,***

forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

- Joseph was able to forget all his toil as well as the good and bad of his father's house 41:51 **And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.**
- Joseph was able to lead a productive life even after all that had happened to him 41:52 **And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.**
- God has a great plan for your life and He will use your past to make much of it come true