

This week...

Scripture: Genesis 39:20 - 40:23

Monday Genesis 39:20-21 *“Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him;”*

Identify those times in your life that you were “*confined*” or under heavy pressure and trials, and without a doubt knew that the Lord was with you. What was some of the evidence of His being with you? Are you facing something today where you must remind yourself of His presence?

Tuesday Genesis 39:21-22 *“he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.”*

A distorted view of God’s favor would be to think that when His favor and kindness are upon you there will be no hardship, but that is not true at all. Can you name five biblical personalities to whom God showed kindness and favor, and yet, their circumstances were extremely difficult? Now list five times in your life where this same truth was evident.

Wednesday Genesis 39:23 *“The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.”*

Did you notice how this is a carbon copy of what had happened while serving Potiphar? A mature, godly character remains steadfast through the triumphs and the storms. Though his location and situation changed drastically over the past ten years or more, his faith was rock solid. Do you allow your location and situation to dictate the level of your character or does your

unflagging character carry you victoriously through life’s ups and downs?

Thursday Genesis 40:9, 12, 14-16, & 18 *“9So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream...12This is what it means...’ 14But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. 15For I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.’ 16When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, ‘I too had a dream:...’ 18This is what it means,’ Joseph said....”*

Joseph possessed keen discernment and godly wisdom that enabled him to listen, understand, and interpret the dreams of these two men. He hoped that the cupbearer would remember his kindness and help him win his freedom from an unjustified punishment. How has the Lord used you and the gifts and abilities you possess to change the lives and attitudes of others?

Friday Genesis 40:23 *“The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.”*

Being godly, kind, discerning, or wise does not guarantee that others will remember us or return the favors. Be careful not to pin your hopes and happiness on what you are expecting someone else to do for you. All people, even those we consider the best, will let us down at some point. Spend time thanking God that you don’t need to rely on what others do or say to find peace, fulfillment, and joy. Then confess any lingering bitterness or bad attitudes you’ve been holding onto because of what others have or have not done.