Trusting God When People Let You Down September 24, 2023

*Genesis 40:1-8 Series: God at Work When We Can’t See Him*

The way out of life's frustrations is found not by resenting our limitation but by accepting the place of frustration as the sphere of God's purpose. – James Reid

Intro: Naming a perfume after your marriage

1. When you don’t feel blessed, will you still be a blessing?
2. Waiting may be a greater test than sexual temptation

v. 1 *Some time after this …*

v. 4 *The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.*

Lamentations 3:25 *The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.*

1. Even in the pit, we can still bless others

vv. 6-7 … *he saw that they were troubled. So he asked ..., “Why are your faces downcast today?”*

1 Peter 4:10 *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace …*

Jeremiah 29:7 *But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.*

* How do you “accept the place of frustration as the sphere of God’s purpose”?
* What reasons could Joseph have given for not caring about the problems of the cupbearer and the baker?
* Where do you need to imitate Joseph’s serving in your life?

1. When your dreams don’t come true, will you still trust the dream-maker?
2. Faith is about trusting God when you can’t see Him

v. 8 *They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”*

v. 12 *Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days.”*

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

1. Negative reactions can make us gun shy

Genesis 37:5 *Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.*

vv. 18-19 *And Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.”*

* How could Joseph be confident that the cupbearer’s dream would come true when his own dream still hadn’t?
* Telling his brothers his dreams hadn’t gone well for Joseph. How would he have felt delivering a dream interpretation to the baker? Why did he do it then?
* Have negative reactions taken some of your courage in sharing the gospel? How do you overcome that? Who do you need to share with?

1. When people forget you, will you still believe that God remembers you?
2. The personal offences are hard to take

vv. 14-15 *Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house.* *For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.*

v. 23 *Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

1. What seems like too long is sometimes too soon

Psalm 13:1 *How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?*

Genesis 41:1 *After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile …*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

1. God remembers us when others forget

Isaiah 49:15 *Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.*

Psalms 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life …*

* When are you tempted to doubt God’s love for you?
* When the chief cupbearer forgot Joseph, it felt as if God had forgotten him, too. What helps you trust God in those times?
* How would things have ended differently if the cupbearer had remembered Joseph right away?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Genesis 41:1-16

Notes