

"I SHALL COME FORTH AS GOLD"

Joshua 1:2 Fellowship

Pastor Mike Suarez Sr.

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Job 23:10-12

If you can properly handle pain, it can shape your life for greatness. Why should anyone need to suffer? Do blessings only come through struggles? A.W. Tozer said, **"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply."** Joseph was a man that was "deeply hurt" before he was greatly used by God. He was born a favored son, but his life was filled with: Disappointment, Fear, Mistreatment, False Accusations, Rejection, Slavery and abandonment. Joseph had given the meaning of a dream to the king's cupbearer who was in prison. Then Joseph said to the cupbearer, "But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison." Genesis 40:14 But when the cupbearer was released and restored to his former position, **he forgot about Joseph.** Two full years passed after that event. Why was Joseph still suffering on that dark dungeon? Because God was still at work in his life. Job said, **"When He has tried me, I shall come forth as Gold."** There is no hurry-up process in shaping gold. When the process is finished, you will come forth as gold. Then, you will be able to handle whatever promotion comes your way and to serve God where He wants you. While Joseph was forgotten by the cupbearer, he was still being refined in the dungeon. His heart was still being broken by affliction and abandonment.

THE TEST

Genesis 40:23 - **"The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him."** Two whole years had passed by and Joseph thought that nothing was happening in his life. His last hope (the cupbearer) of ever being released from prison had forgotten him. Joseph thought that nothing was happening but behind

the scenes God was doing mighty things. Joseph was being: Strengthened, Refined, Established, Refined into pure gold, Perfected. All whom God uses greatly are first hidden in the secret of His presence, away from the pride of man. Moses didn't lead the Hebrews out of Egypt until he was eighty. Abraham waited for the birth of Isaac. Noah waited 120 years for rain. God is working while His people are waiting, waiting and waiting.

THE TURNING POINT



After those two years, Joseph experienced a turning point in his life. Then Pharaoh had a dream. Genesis 41:1-7 When Pharaoh awoke, he remembered what he had dreamed, and he was disturbed by it. Genesis 41:8 No one could interpret them to Pharaoh! But in God's timing Pharaoh's chief cupbearer spoke. Genesis 41:9-14 Joseph knew nothing of what was going on in Pharaoh's palace. All of a sudden "they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon." This was the turning point of his life, because Joseph had been deeply hurt by God, he was about to be used greatly by Him. By the time God was about to use Joseph in a powerful way, his heart had been broken. He had been tried by the fire and affliction. From

the age of 30 to the age of 110 when he died, not one word of resentment on his heart or from his lips was heard coming from him. He didn't blame his **brothers** who sold him into slavery. He had no bitterness against **Potiphar's wife**. He had no grudges against the **cupbearer** who had forgotten him. Joseph was in a position to get even with all of them, but he did not. Pharaoh told Joseph all about his dream and Joseph interpreted the dream. Genesis 41:25-32 As Joseph interprets the dream, he points Pharaoh to God. **“God had told Pharaoh what He is about to do.”** V.25 and V.28 Joseph points to Pharaoh that God was very serious of what was going to happen! **“Now as for the repeating of the dream of Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.”** V.32

Instead of calling attention to himself, he points Pharaoh to God and then gave him wise counsel. **“And now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.”** Genesis 41:33 Joseph said, “You need a man who can take responsibility for managing those seven years of fruitfulness. You need a man of discipline who can be trusted to handle the job.

THE REWARD



God rewards Joseph with a promotion because of his faithfulness. Pharaoh said, **“Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the Spirit of God?”** Genesis 41:38 Joseph did not tell Pharaoh, “I’m the man you should put in charge!” Joseph refused to promote himself. (Ps. 75:6-7) If God is in it, He would promote Joseph! But Pharaoh said to Joseph, **“Since God told you all this, there is obviously no one as discerning or as wise as you. Therefore, I’m putting you in command of everything...”** Genesis 41:40-41 The word discernment means the ability to have insight into a situation and act constructively in times of need. Joseph understood how to make the right moves, even under

pressure. He understood this, because it was through pressure that he had been refined into gold. Joseph was exalted over all Egypt. Genesis 41:41-43 Only a few hours before, Joseph was an abandoned and forgotten prisoner in the dungeon. Now, in God’s timing, he was second in command over all Egypt. One main reason why God exalted Joseph over all Egypt was because of his faithfulness when nobody else was around. Joseph was promoted because he was chosen, selected, prepared and refined into gold by Almighty God. What can we learn from the sufferings of Joseph that will help us today. During the waiting period (even when you’re in the dungeon), trust God without panic. God will take care of the cupbearer of your life, the people who forget you, the people who break their promises. Be faithful during your waiting periods of life. God will not forget you or forsake you. When the reward comes, thank God without pride. Only God can bring you through and out of the dungeon. Only God can reward you for your righteousness. Many of you are at the brink of promotion, so don’t give up in trusting God. The God of Joseph will stay beside us during the dungeon days and He will not forsake or forget us.

CONCLUSION:

Somebody counted the promises in the Bible and totaled up 7,474. Most of those promises offer hope at the end of affliction. Those promises tell us, It is worth it!

Walk with me! Trust Me! Wait with me! I will reward you for that waiting time! Joseph learned that a broken and contrite heart is not the end, but the beginning. Bruised and crushed by the blows of disappointment and forgotten, he learned that God had never left his side. When the affliction ended, he had been refined and he came forth as gold. “God is searching for gold in the river of our hearts. Will He find some so that He can refine it?”