

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Genesis 40

Genesis chapter 40 finds Joseph once again unjustly treated by the person he had served faithfully, Potiphar, the Captain of the Royal Guard. His integrity has been dragged again through the dirt, but He remains faithful to God and God honors him by granting him favor with his warden. In ancient Egypt the Pharaoh was as a God and all you had to do was *not* please him and he could have you killed immediately. V. 2. says merely, "And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers..." the chief butler and the chief baker. Instead of having them killed instantly, he put them in his prison; Joseph had custody of them. Joseph was perceptive enough and caring of those in his charge that he noticed a mood change in the two men. When Joseph inquired as to their dismay, they answered that they had dreams and felt they were significant, but no one could interpret them. Joseph immediately saw this as an opportunity to give witness to the God of his ancestry. The butler told Joseph his dream and Joseph immediately told him that this was good news, in three days he would be back in his previous position of honor before Pharaoh. When the other man, the chief baker "saw that the interpretation of Joseph was good" then he also told Joseph his dream. This time Joseph, being faithful to speak God's message, predicted that in three days would call for him and hang him and leave his body hanging for the birds to pick his flesh. In three days, it was Pharaoh's birthday, and he did as Joseph had foretold, the butler was honored, the baker was hanged! All Joseph had asked the two men was if he had indeed interpreted their

dreams correctly that they would tell Pharaoh about his plight; that he had been taken away from his native land by force and unjustly imprisoned. However, as is often the case, one good deed done to someone is not swiftly repaid, but often forgotten. Verse 23 ends the chapter with these fateful words, "Yet the chief butler **did not remember** Joseph, but **forgot him.**" (*Emphasis mine*)

Prayer and Action Steps

Have you been mistreated? Have you been misjudged? Have your words been twisted? Have you been taken advantage of in your best efforts? Welcome to Joseph's world. The culture in which we live is an entitlement culture. Everyone it seems is a victim and mistreating others is a no-fault, no-responsibility game. In this chapter and the previous one, Joseph is unjustly sold into slavery, falsely accused, and thrown into prison and then after blessing those in his care, he is summarily forgotten, and left to rot in prison. But God did not forget about Joseph and God will not forget about you. If you have been the one doing the mistreatment, misjudging and abusive in your behavior toward others, you should repent and seek God's forgiveness immediately. God is gracious and merciful. If you have been the one mistreated, misjudged, and maligned, remember, God sees you. He has not forgotten you and as you will see in the next chapter, God has a plan for your life. Thank God He is in control and will raise you up when it His time. Ask God to give you grace and mercy to wait upon Him. Those who do have a special reward. (See Isaiah 40:31.) God is faithful. He loves you. He has not forgotten you.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
