

## February 9-Genesis 40

Today and tomorrow, we will talk about a topic that we all struggle with at times, trusting God's timing. It has been well said that God gives three general answers to our prayers of supplication yes, no, or wait. When God answers yes we typically celebrate, when He answers "no" we may be prone to a moment or two of sadness, but when He answers "wait" we are tempted to wander from His plan and His presence. Sometimes this wandering manifests itself through our taking matters into our own hands. We like to try to "make things happen" even when God isn't complicit. This has already been illustrated in the book of Genesis through the story of Abram and Hagar in chapter 16. Other times, our wandering is obvious in our propensity to question the love and faithfulness of God. I would venture to guess that all of us have questioned God in the moments in which He has called us to wait. We wonder why He would move so mightily and then seemingly disappear. We can't understand why God won't answer our prayer now or why He answered for a moment but then things moved back into the same old pattern.

Joseph undoubtedly had some of these thoughts as he sat in prison (for doing the right thing). He was thrown in prison after being wrongfully accused and had proven faithful to be a hard worker yet again. One day, Joseph had the opportunity to interpret the dreams of two men who were a part of Pharaoh's personal staff. His reputation gave him the opportunity to serve them while in prison and on one morning, he correctly interpreted their dreams. Joseph's only request after giving these men the meanings of their dreams was "only remember me, when it is well with you." (v. 14). This is all that Joseph asked.

Have you ever done something extremely nice for a person who is in need only to see that they totally forget it once they get over their problem? It can be quite frustrating to see someone's life change for the better because of your help and now they don't even act like they know you. This is essentially what happened with Joseph. The Bible says that "the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him." (v. 23). This happens so often in life doesn't it? Those who work behind the scenes or do something nice often get forgotten. The question is does God forget? I can categorically say that God did not, has not, and will not forget you (and He didn't forget Joseph as we will see tomorrow)! Continue to believe in God and trust His plan even though things seem to be as bad today as they were yesterday. Trust that God is up to something and that "all things work together for the good of those who love God and who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). There is always a grand plan; sometimes it just takes a while for us to see it!

Maybe the clearest example of this is found in the story of the death of Christ. For three days it seemed as if death had won. Jesus Christ, the man the disciples and many others thought was the Savior of the world seemingly was defeated. It appeared as if Christ had breathed His last, but in that moment God was not defeated and neither was He denying the disciples the salvation they so desperately desired through Christ. Instead, God's plan was requiring them to wait just a few moments. Certainly, the wait was excruciating, but on the other side Jesus' followers were able to see that their God was faithful and that their Savior emerged from His burial with the "keys of death and hades" (Revelation 1:18). Brother and sister, God's plan is perfect and He is always faithful, believe and trust in Him and you will one day see that He has always been actively working for your good!