

FROM PRISON TO PRIME MINISTER

Genesis 41:1-30

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. During this series... we have talked a lot about how God was with Joseph in all that he faced.
- b. But there was someone else who was with Joseph too... and that was Satan.

II. DEALING WITH SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS-

- a. Satan is supernatural... but he is not divine... Satan is not omniscient ... he does not have all knowledge.
- b. Satan knew that Joseph was someone special in God's plan... but Satan had no more an idea of what God was doing in Joseph's life ... than Joseph did.
- c. But I promise you... Satan was with Joseph at every turn... tempting Joseph to turn his back on God.
- d. Satan knew that if he could get Joseph to turn his back on God... if he could get Joseph to sin in a significant way... whatever God was doing in Joseph's life would be hindered or ruined.
- e. After Joseph was sold into slavery... when he was on his way to Egypt ... you can be sure that Satan was whispering in his ear... "Where is your God now?"
- f. When Potiphar's wife propositioned Joseph... you know what Satan was saying ... "What will it hurt? Who will know? Why be faithful to a God who has abandoned you?"
- g. When Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison... Satan was there... ever tempting Joseph to turn his back on God.
- h. When the chief cupbearer was released from prison... and forgot

about Joseph...Satan whispered in his ear... “God has forgotten you too.”

- i. Satan never gives up in his effort... to cause Christians to turn their back on God.
- j. Even after Joseph was released and elevated to the position of Prime Minister of Egypt... Satan continued to tempt him to forsake God.
- k. Satan will tempt you when you are high on the mountain... and he will tempt you when you are low in the valley.
- l. Later when Joseph’s brothers showed up in Egypt... you can be sure that Satan tempted him to get his revenge on them.
- m. Throughout the earthly life and ministry of Jesus... Satan was constantly tempting Jesus... to sin.
- n. If Satan tempted Joseph... and if Satan tempted Jesus... Satan will certainly tempt you no matter how much you are saved.
- o. Satan cannot rob believers of our salvation... he cannot snatch us out of the hand of God.
- p. But Satan will do everything he can to rob Christians of our testimony ... our witness ... our faithfulness... and our usefulness to God... by leading us into sin.
- q. This is why the Bible continually warns Christians... to be on guard against Satan’s temptations, deceits and traps.
- r. *1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”*
- s. *Ephesians 6:11 (NKJV) “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*
- t. Satan is always looking for opportunities to overwhelm the believer with temptation... persecution... and discouragement.

- u. He will do what he can to drag Christians out of fellowship with Christ ... and out of Christian service.
- v. And by the way... no Christian should consider themselves such an “insignificant believer” ... that they are not a target of Satan... if you are a Christian... Satan hates you and he is out to get you.
- w. We need to remember that while Satan is a powerful foe...for the believer he is not an unbeatable foe.
- x. Satan has two allies he uses to tempt believers ... the flesh within us ...the residue of our lost life that will be with us until we die ... and the lost world around us.
- y. But... God gives the believer powerful resources to help us defeat Satan.
- z. Satan is a foe that believers can defeat... as long as we resist him in the power of God’s might... and as long as we rely on the resources that God has given to us to help us overcome Satan.
- aa. The resources of prayer... the Word of God ... the Spirit of God ... the people of God... the power of God... and the strength of God.
- bb. As long as we cling to God in faith... and trust in the Shepherd of our soul ... who defeated Satan at the cross... we can overcome any temptation of Satan.
- cc. It is when we wander from God... and neglect God... and neglect worship and prayer... the Word of God... and the people of God ... that we become vulnerable to Satan’s temptations.
- dd. In all that he went through... there is no doubt that Joseph had his weak moments... but Joseph held on to God... and trusted in God no matter what... and God gave him victory over Satan’s temptations.

III. THE CONTROL OF GOD-

- a. As Genesis 41... two years has passed since Pharaoh’s chief butler

had been released from prison... forgetting all about Joseph.

- b. Those two years must have passed so slowly for Joseph... but while Satan tempted Joseph to abandon God... God continued to assure Joseph that He had not forgotten about Him.
- c. Joseph remembered those dreams of blessing and elevation...that the Lord had given to him.
- d. As he had done before... while he remained in prison... Joseph again determined that he was going to be faithful to God no matter what.
- e. Second to the decision to give our life to Christ... the greatest decision any Christian can make... is the decision that whatever it takes ... whatever the cost... no matter what is happening... you are going to be faithful to God ... and you are going to do God's will in your life.
- f. There are times when it is easy to be faithful to God and do His will... when things are good, easy and pleasant.
- g. But there are other times... when it is not easy to do the will of God... when things are hard and painful.
- h. Sometimes the will of God is a joy... but other times being faithful to God...and doing the will of God is tough.
- i. But regardless of what the circumstances may be... it is always best to do the will of God.
- j. The story of Joseph all turns on a dream... that God gave to Pharaoh ... the ruler of Egypt.
- k. Pharaoh was not a believer in the one true God... Pharaoh was an idol worshiper... who worshipped the many gods of Egypt.
- l. But God was about to allow a famine to come on that part of the world ... and even though he was an unbeliever... Pharaoh was going to play a significant role in saving the lives of many people from

starving ... and he was going to play a significant role in preserving the lives of the descendants of Abraham... the people of God.

- m. This is a reminder of God's control... of creation, nature and the human affairs of this world.
- n. When mankind... the pinnacle of creation fell... all of creation was affected ... this world we live in is a fallen, sin cursed world... but this world is not out of God's control.
- o. Because God is good...He limits of the effects of the fall on this earth.
- p. If you and I only knew how many earthquakes... hurricanes ... floods... and natural disasters... God has *not* allowed to happen in this world... lest mankind be wiped from the earth... we would be amazed ... and we would be so thankful to God.
- q. But there are times... in His providence... that God allows natural disasters to happen ... we don't understand why... and we will not understand why until we go to Heaven ... but God does.
- r. Not only is God in control of nature ... He is also in control of the affairs of mankind...if it were not for God... this world would be full of people like Hitler... lobbing nuclear weapons at each other and killing millions.
- s. If you think the world is full of evil people now... you have no idea what it would be like without God's restraining hand.
- t. Natural disasters... and the presence of evil in this world... are not the fault of God...they are not the work of God... they are the result of the sin and fall of man.
- u. God is His goodness limits the full effect of that fall... but He does not prevent all evil from happening in this world.
- v. One day... after Jesus comes again... God will finally cleanse creation of the curse and effects of evil.

- w. Until then... knowing that this is a fallen world... knowing how precarious life is... knowing the potential danger we all face from natural disasters and evil ... the best thing anyone can do is to get saved and get right with God.
- x. And by the way... if it were not for the goodness of God... you and I would have been dead a long time ago... we have no idea how God has protected us and keep us alive until now... than you Lord.

IV. PHARAOH'S DREAM-

- a. The dream Pharaoh had... came in two parts.
- b. In part one of his dream... Pharaoh was standing by the Nile River when he saw seven fat, well-fed cows come up out of the water and begin to feed in the meadow... then he saw seven thin, starving cows came up out of the river... and eat up the seven fat sleek cows.
- c. Startled by this dream... Pharaoh woke up... and then he fell asleep again.
- d. In part two of his dream... Pharaoh saw seven fat, plump heads of grain appear on one stalk ... and then he saw seven dry, wasted heads of grain appear on another stalk... and then he saw the seven wasted heads of grain devour... eat up... the seven fat, plump heads of grain.
- e. The Egyptians believed that their gods communicated with them through dreams... and the fact that he had received two startling similar dreams in one night... in which a set of impoverished sevens destroys a set of abundant sevens... troubled Pharaoh greatly.
- f. The next morning Pharaoh called in all the magicians and wise men of Egypt to interpret the dream for him... but none of them could do it.
- g. It was then... that one of those moments that changes the world happened.
- h. The chief butler remembered that when he was in prison... a Hebrew prisoner named Joseph had correctly interpreted his and the chief

baker's dream.

- i. The chief butler was probably reluctant to remind Pharaoh of the time he was in prison...but he finally spoke up... and told Pharaoh what had happened... and he recommended Joseph to Pharaoh.
- j. That morning... Joseph probably got up just like he did every other day in the prison.
- k. He probably ate his breakfast... had his morning devotions ... and set about doing what he did every other day... thinking this could be the day that something happens.
- l. And this day did turn out to be a day... like no other day for Joseph.
- m. I remember some very special days in my life... I remember the day I first saw the most beautiful girl I have ever seen... the girl who would become my wife... I remember the days when my children and grandchildren were born... I have had some very special days in my life.
- n. But the greatest day in my life... was the day I got saved... the day I gave my life to Jesus Christ... blessed be that glorious day.
- o. As Joseph was going about his business... the warden of the prison and a couple of servants from Pharaoh's court hurriedly appeared before him.
- p. And the warden said something that changed Joseph's life forever ... "Pharaoh wants to see you and these men are here to help you get ready to see him."
- q. This was a very big deal... the Pharaoh of Egypt was at the time the most powerful man in the world... and he... the ruler of Egypt... wanted to see Joseph a lowly Hebrew slave who was in prison.
- r. No doubt Joseph was stunned when he heard this... but Joseph was also a man in tune with God...Joseph knew... that the time had come

... God was up to something.

- s. Before you and I were saved... we were in the prison of sin... we were in bondage to Satan.
- t. And then we heard the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ ... and in the gospel... the King of Creation...the King of the Universe... called us to come to Him.
- u. Unlike Joseph who could be cleaned up with soap and water... we were covered with a stain that nothing in this world can wash off ... so we had to come before the King of Glory... just as we were.
- v. When we saw His glory... when we saw the nail prints in His hands and His feet and the scar in His side... caused when He gave His life as a sacrifice for our sin ... when we heard the glorious gospel and we repented and believed ... the King of glory saved us... forgave us... washed us clean and pure by His blood... covered us with His grace and mercy... He then blessed us and made us His child.
- w. After Joseph was cleaned up... he came before Pharaoh... and the rest as they say... is history... and we will look what happened next week.

V. CONCLUSION-

- a. There is another glorious day coming... the day Jesus comes again!
- b. We know that eventually Joseph was made the Prime Minister of Egypt ... second in power only to Pharaoh.
- c. I have often wondered what happened when Potiphar went home that night and said to his wife... “Hey honey, remember that Hebrew boy who used to work for us that you said tried to attack you?”... “Yeah, what of him?”... “I hope your charges against him were true because Pharaoh has just made him the Prime Minister and I'm to report to his office at 8 o'clock in the morning.”
- d. I have a feeling from that moment forward... Mrs. Potiphar never left the house again.

- e. There is always a day of reckoning for those who do others wrong ... either in this world... or the next.
- f. Resist temptation... trust in God... be faithful to Him no matter... and He will lift you up.