

Joseph Wrongfully in Prison

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

Have you ever reflected on your yesterdays? You have wondered why did all this happen and how come you are where you are today? Perhaps somewhere deep within you realize that you are there because you suffered great harm. You are in a different place from where you felt you should be. Perhaps you have gone through a situation where somebody has been lying about you and has caused you to be displaced from that comfortable position you were in. Perhaps you even had people who wished you were dead! One of the finest Bible stories that you could ever read is about the life of Joseph. He had one of the purest characters known in history. Unlike even such men as David or Solomon, Joseph always left a good report of what was in his heart and what was done by his hand.

Let us just take a Bible and turn over to **Genesis chapter 39 and verse 20**, where we read - **And Joseph's master - and his wrath was kindled, we read - took him, and put him in the prison, a place where the state prisoners were confined; so he was there in the prison.** Now you read this and you think , "Well, that is not very nice, but I can imagine those prisons are like where I live." Let

me explain to you that the Hebrew word for this place called *prison* is *a hole*. They were manacled and there was a great big stone in the roof. Everybody was attached to these fetters and they were manacled in iron and there was a clanking of these fetters. This is what was going on. It makes me think of the Apostle Paul in the New Testament, who said, in **Colossians 4:18** - . . . **Remember my bonds**. . . . When we hear of people today in prison for the Lord Jesus Christ, do not imagine our kind of prisons in the West. Some of these places are similar, but more likely dungeons; a hole where everybody is crowded in together. You see, Joseph's life speaks of hard trials but trials which caused him to have mettle in the Lord Himself. He trusted in the Lord and, through that, he was able to resist the temptations that came to his path, because he knew the Lord was with him; the Lord was his life. Although he did suffer degradation, yet God, in His timing, caused that he carried key leadership. You see, God does not suddenly push a person into a position; He is ever training us. He is doing a work within us, not only for this life but for all eternity. Therefore, even the very enemies were confounded in spite of every attempt they made against him.

Joseph can be truly likened to a type of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Upon reflection, Joseph could only trace the hand of God since his brothers had expressed their hatred and determination kill him. Do you remember that? Not only had they stripped him of his

distinctive garment that had been given him by his father, but they cast him into a well-like pit, which was empty and without water. In spite of his cries for mercy and his pleadings and even probably mention of his aged father and the distress this would cause him, conveniently they sold him to a caravan of merchants who happened to be passing with their camels on their journey down to Egypt. Chained and dehumanized, Joseph must have reflected that these camels were loaded with spices needed in Egypt to embalm the dead. Could you imagine being associated with such death? *But God!* Joseph realized that he had God on his side although he was a slave. God worked it so that although he had been sold, Joseph arrived and was in the home of Potiphar. Now Potiphar was a military captain, who actually was in charge of executions. Fancy being placed in the home of such a man! But to such a man Joseph was not only a blessing to the very life of which he spoke of the living God, but also to those around. Everybody prospered because of it. He did so well and things were so good. Then there was Potiphar's wife, who decided that she was going to go after him. In her lazy lust, she wanted him to commit adultery with her. We read in **Genesis 39** —

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, See here, with me in the house my master has concern about nothing; he has put all that he has in my care.

9 He is not greater in this house than I am; nor has he kept

anything from me except you, for you are his wife. How then can I do this great evil and sin against God? Perhaps I am speaking to somebody and the Word of God is saying, “You are somebody’s wife. You should not be doing what you are doing!” But if you are in a prison, as was Joseph, without cause - rejoice! Jesus is with you. Let Him take over your circumstance and give Him praise and adoration where you are.

For His glory. Amen.