

Joseph Week 7

Carefully Tested by a Patient God

Gen 39:20-23

Gen 39:20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. NIV

- God's plans and purposes are _____ than our plans.
- We want to look to the now. God is interested in the _____, not just the now.

Facts we must not miss when things get worse:

1. Joseph remained _____.
2. "God was with Joseph" is always the key to _____.
 - Suffering is not always _____, but may be necessary in bringing us to where God desires.
 - Suffering and adversity develop _____.
 - Suffering can be a result of man's _____.
3. Joseph not only controlled his appetites but he also controlled his _____.
 - Controlling the tongue is a mark of _____.
 - _____ satisfaction will always lead to darkness and a dependence on oneself.

How was Joseph able to withstand temptation?

Chuck Swindoll in his book on Joseph teaches us:

1. He was not _____ by his situation.
 - Economically he was _____.
 - He was respected and _____.
 - He was handsome and charming.
 - The blessings of life make us _____ to thinking we can do life on our own.
2. You must not be deceived by the _____ offered to us daily.
3. We must keep our _____ in check.
 - Temptations always beg that you will _____ why you can't stand firm.

- *Dag Hammarskjold wrote: "You cannot play with the animal in you without being wholly animal, play with falsehood without forfeiting your right to truth, play with cruelty without losing your sensitivity of mind. He who wants to keep the garden tidy doesn't reserve a plot for weeds."*

4. Don't be confused by immediate unwanted results.
5. When life is hard claim the supernatural power of knowing Jesus Christ and His power to _____.

The Cupbearer and Baker

One of the _____ to living a Christ-centered life is by living an other-person-centered life.

Several truths we can take away today:

1. God's plans and _____ are far greater than our own plans and purposes.
 2. God provides and blesses those who _____ and follow in times of hurt.
 3. Suffering, for God's people, is not always _____.
 4. There is _____ in a life of self-control.
 5. God will always honor _____ in a believer.
 6. We, like Joseph, should strive for _____ and a strong work ethic.
 7. _____ begins with a healthy fear of God and results in faithfulness to him.
- Joseph never abandoned his God-given _____ in pursuit of his God-given dreams.
 - When trials and temptations begin to crowd your thoughts and life, don't treat them as intruders but as _____ to strengthen your faith and resolve to endure.

Final thoughts:

- Make God's presence your _____.
- Difficult days require a _____ that does not lose the sense of God's presence.