



Fulfilment of a Dream

WEEK TWO – IN POTIPHAR’S HOUSE

Genesis 39

Joseph had been sold by the Ishmaelites to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard. This next phase of Joseph’s life starts with a wonderful verse: “*The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.*” (verse 2).

- Do you sometimes feel that life has dealt you an unfair hand? If so, think about this verse. Joseph, a teenager, could have railed against what had happened to him and who could have blamed him? Instead of grudgingly serving Potiphar, he does everything with good grace because the Lord was with him.
- It is a lesson for us all to learn: to serve God wholeheartedly, in whatever situation we find ourselves. Paul sums it up in Colossians 3:23 “*Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.*”

Read verses 3-6

- Do you feel that other people are receiving blessings from God but it’s not happening for you? Maybe there is an answer in these verses. Not only was Joseph blessed by being trusted and promoted, but Potiphar and his house likewise was blessed. It’s like a ripple effect. This doesn’t mean that you will never have any problems but if you react in the way that Joseph did, God will bless you in perhaps unexpected ways.

Read verses 7-16

Don’t believe anyone who tells you that if we walk according to God’s word, we will not have problems in our lives. Far from it. Think about Daniel and his friends, [Daniel 2](#). When God showed Daniel the answer to Nebuchadnezzar’s, the king promoted him and his friends. But move into [chapter 3](#) and we find a quite different story. Having refused to bow to the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar, he had Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego thrown into the fiery furnace. As the king stood watching, he turned to his counsellors asking how, if they had only thrown three men into the furnace, there were now four, and the fourth man was like the Son of God? Not only were the men walking around clearly, unharmed, but when they came out not a single hair on their head was

singed and there was no smell of the fire on them. Naturally, impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Daniel 6. Later, when Daniel refused to stop praying to God, Darius the king (not pleased with himself for the situation he had created), had Daniel cast into the den of lions. It is interesting that verse 18 tells us that Darius fasted that night and could not sleep because of what he had done. Yet again, God performed a miracle as according to Daniel, *“My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions, ...”* (verse 22).

- Do you believe that God is the same today as he was then? When you find yourself in difficult circumstances, give praise to God believing that he can deliver you. Often, we must go through these trying times but keeping our focus on God, allows him to bring us through the time of testing. It then becomes an opportunity to share with others what God has done in our lives.

In our chapter on Joseph, verses 7-16 demonstrate that refusing to compromise our spiritual walk with God can lead us, as it did Joseph, to go through yet more testing times. Joseph could have given in to temptation and no one else would have known, but God would.

The Lord’s prayer says this: *“Lead us not into temptation (a more accurate translations is probably ‘testing’), but deliver us from evil.”*

The Apostle Paul tells us: *“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”* (Romans 8:28). And Peter teaches in 1 Peter 4:12-13 *“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.”*

Nobody wants to go through difficult times, but it is necessary if we are to grow spiritually. If nothing ever challenged our faith and commitment, we would remain as spiritual babies. Try and see it as God giving you the opportunity to develop in your spiritual walk with him. Psalm 23:4 *“Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.”*

- Think about the difficult times in your life. Write down the lessons you learned from them. It maybe that God wants you to share that experience(s) with someone else so that they can gain strength and hope from your testimony.

Take strength and courage from **Romans 8:35-39**: *“Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, “For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.”) No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our*

fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Have you ever been falsely accused of something? How did it make you feel?
- Can you imagine Joseph’s thoughts? Yet, even in that situation God showed he was with him.
- Read verses 20-23 and take it as God’s promise to you that the Lord is with you just as he was with Joseph.

Prayer: Father God, help me to realise that you are with me in every circumstance of my life and that you have my best interests at heart. Enable me to remain faithful to you and your word.

