

Character Study: Joseph
Part 3 – Joseph Endures Disappointment
Genesis 40

What's happening?

- The Pharaoh's butler and baker committed an offense against the Pharaoh. As a result, he put them in prison with Joseph. (40:1-4)
- The butler and baker each had troubling dreams. With God's insight, Joseph interpreted their dreams, explaining that within three days the butler would be restored to his place of service and the baker would be put to death. (40:5-19)
- Joseph asked the butler to remember him after he was restored to his place of service, and to help him get out of prison. (40:14-15)
- The interpretations came to pass just as Joseph had stated, but the butler forgot about Joseph and his request for help. (40:20-23)
- Joseph would remain in prison for another two years. (41:1)

What's God doing?

- > God placed Joseph, the baker and the butler all in prison at the same time. This divine appointment would eventually enabled Joseph to get out of prison and be placed in a high place of authority in Egypt.
- > God was teaching Joseph patience as He worked on His timetable to carry out His plan.

What's to learn?

- People may disappoint you, but God will always remain faithful. We can trust in God and the plan He is carrying out for our lives.
- Sometimes God does not carry out His plans as quickly as we would like, and that requires patience on our part! We struggle with patience when things do not happen the way we think they should happen. The key to patience is learning to replace our desires with a trust in God to work out His plans as He sees fit.
- In what ways do you see God teaching you patience? What trials are you going through right now that require patience? What is God teaching you about trusting Him through these situations? (Note James 1:3-4)

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