

Scripture: Law of God (Exodus 20) & Genesis 41:1-45 **Series Joseph #8**
Singing: 289:1-4 – 325:2,3 – 387:1-6 – 161:1, 5 – 233:5-6

Refresh: *The history of Joseph is His (God's)-story!*

- A. God's message about His wisdom as the Potter: Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:16-18
- B. God's message about Jesus Christ greatness: Luke 24:25-26
1. Joseph's story of suffering is inspiring (1 Peter 4:1-4) but never saving
 2. Jesus' story of suffering is about our redemption (1 Peter 1:24)
 3. Jesus' story of suffering is an also pastoral (Heb. 4:14-16; 2:17-18)

GOD'S VICTORIOUS GRACE IN JOSEPH (1)

- I. Tested when Joseph is freed from prison
- II. Witnessed in Joseph's amazing confession

I. God's victorious grace seen when Joseph is freed from prison

- A. God's grace in the prison is seen in *Joseph's waiting on God* (Ch. 40)
1. He served God in serving Him faithfully: 40:3-4
 - a. Joseph lived in the 'hole' as in the presence of God (Coram Deo!)
 - b. Joseph lived in the fear of God: vs. 8 (39:9; 41:16)
 2. While serving God faithfully, did he reveal a moment of weakness? (vs. 14)
 - a. even if it was a weakness, don't judge him harshly
 - b. if a moment of weakness, it is also a message (1 Peter 1:5)
 - contrasts vs. 23 with Ps. 33:18-19; Is. 40:26-31; 49:14-16
 3. Yet Joseph waited upon the LORD his God: *what is waiting?*
 - a. the Biblical *waiting upon God* is **not doing nothing**
 - b. to wait upon God is *one of the greatest exercises of faith*
 - Ps. 33:20; 62:1; 130:6; Job 23:8-10; John 6:68-69
 - A Comrie: *There are careless people who speak of waiting or expecting, but whose actions show the lie! For they are not spending their time in stirring themselves by prayer, and to die unto all things outside of God so that their graces may be lively. Those that truly wait upon the LORD, they prepare their heart to meet Jehovah in a suitable condition of soul.*
- B. God's grace is tested when Joseph is released from prison
1. Chapter 41 does not spell *Deliverance* or *Sweet Reward*
 2. Chapter 41 spells *Sweeping Dangers Ahead*
 3. Contrast Joseph *before* (Ch. 37, 38, 40) and Joseph *now* (in Ch. 41)
 - a. his father Jacob's tent vs. his 'father' Pharaoh's palace
 - b. his dream about *being honored* vs. the reality now of being *idolized*
 - c. his Hebrew roots and identity vs. Egyptian immersion
 - d. Potiphar's wife temptation vs. his Egyptian own wife

Reflection: "Waiting faithfully on God" does not translate into smooth sailing!

A. How to face sin and temptation If you are not anchored by faith to Jesus?

B. Warning to fellow saints: *fewer survive prosperity than drown in adversity!*

Truths and Thoughts on Temptation

It takes two to make a successful temptation, and you are one of the two!

You have many leaders into temptation, but it is your fault if you follow them.

Better to shun the bait than to struggle in the snare.

Christ will not keep us if we carelessly and wantonly put ourselves into the way of temptations.

Yet every temptation is an opportunity of our getting nearer to God.