

Lesson 3: Overcomers: Rising above life's challenges-Overcoming being forgotten

- I. Gen. 39:21-23; 40:5-8,20-23.
 - A. Joseph is in prison due to a false allegation against him.
 - 1. 39:21-the Lord gave him favor with the prisoners and warden.
 - 2. God gifted Joseph with dreams and leadership. He used both in prison.
 - 3. Cupbearer: advisor to the ruler.
 - B. Vv. 21-23: Joseph remained faithful to the Lord: He had a covenant with the Lord through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (his father).
 - 1. In the covenant, God's character, attributes (the way he is) and his promises are all revealed to Israel.
 - 2. Joseph, knowing the character of God, trusted in the Lord's plans and purposes- even when he didn't know the future.
 - C. Gen. 40:5-8, 20-23
 - 1. Joseph showed great compassion to the distraught prisoners: cupbearer and chief baker. He was their attendant in prison.
 - 2. He asked to be remembered by them when they came into Pharaoh's court again. They didn't.
 - 3. Joseph was "forgotten" by them. He went from being favored son to Jacob, to slave to highest administrator in Potiphar's house, to prison as a slave. He spend some 13 years in prison.
 - II. How do we rise above life's challenges as did Joseph?
 - A. What is your world view? How do you see God?
 - 1. How you see and understand Him will determine in times of challenge whether you will rise above life's challenges or be overwhelmed by them.
 - 2. Attitudes to overthrow in our heart:
 - a. "I've got to think of me first"
 - b. "DO whatever feels good"
 - c. "Whatever works for you"
 - d. "God doesn't matter; you are on your own."
 - 3. How do we cultivate an attitude that says: "God made me for his purposes?"
 - a. Learn the truth of who God is in his word. Build your life on His word. His word reveals the character and promises of who he is.
 - b. Turn from the world to the word. See Romans 12:2 Get informed on God's word that shapes your attitudes, values, behavior rather than the world's current of opinions.
 - c. Concern yourself with God's agenda. See Mt. 6:33.
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- Reflection questions:
- 1. Are you aware of the Lord's gifts to you? How are you using them for his glory and the service of others?
 - 2. How well do you "know" the Lord: his character and promises? How grounded are you in His word?
 - 3. What attitudes of the world shape how you see life? Where do you need to change to conform to God's way of seeing?