

(Genesis) Genesis 39:21-23

by J. Vernon McGee

Joseph's life in prison serves as an example of how God's sovereignty and mercy can be seen in the midst of difficult circumstances.

Duration: 3:50

Scripture: Genesis 39:21-23, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 12:11, James 1:12

Topics: "Genesis"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the story of Joseph from the Bible. He highlights how despite the challenging circumstances Joseph faced, the Lord was with him and showed him mercy. Joseph found favor with the Keeper of the Present and was given authority over the prisoners. The preacher emphasizes that Joseph's ability and attractiveness alone would not have brought him success, but it was God's presence and guidance in his life that led to his prosperity. The sermon also mentions that Satan tries to discourage and disappoint believers, but Joseph's example shows how he lived on top of his circumstances and recognized the hand of God in his life.

Transcript

Now again, in verse 21, we read, "...but the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison, and whatsoever they did there he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand, because the Lord was with him, and that which he did the Lord made it to prosper." Now, the hand of God is certainly obvious and seen in this man's life, but over against it is these terrible things that happened to him.

Now he finds himself in prison. How discouraging that must be, or would have been to the average person. But the interesting thing is, we're told the Lord's with Joseph, he didn't appear to him as he did to the other patriarchs, and he showed him mercy, and lo and behold, Joseph found favor here with the keeper of the prison.

Now I think he was naturally a very attractive young man, and a man of tremendous ability. I think that is true beyond a shadow of a doubt, that he was a man of remarkable ability. But the important thing is, all of that would have come to naught had not God been with him.

And God was with this young man, and God was leading him. All of this is moving to the accomplishment of a purpose in this young man's life. Now Joseph recognized that, and when he recognized that, that gave him a buoyancy, an attitude of optimism.

The circumstances did not get him down. He lived on top of his circumstances. I have a preacher friend of mine, and he tells me that my problem is the circumstances are all on top of me, and I never live on top of my circumstances.

Well, I'm of the opinion that that's true to a certain extent. I think many of us may be that way. But certainly this boy here is one that's living on top of his circumstances, and the Lord is with him, and he recognizes that the hand of God's in his life, and he never was discouraged.

They say, you know, that discouragement is one of the finest weapons that Satan has. Discouragement and disappointment. But this young man seems to have surmounted all of his circumstances, and we find here the chastening of the Lord.

It's grievous at the time, but it's going to yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness in the life of this boy. Now, the thing is that the story of Joseph reveals that every man does not have his prize. Satan says he does, but there have been several men that Satan couldn't buy.

Joseph was one, Job was another, Paul the Apostle was another. These were men, and there have been many of them, that Satan can't buy. He certainly despises mankind.

And poor old Potiphar here, he's the one to be pitied, and not Joseph actually. And it's a good thing Joseph is out of that home, but God's moving in his life. Was it the will of God for Joseph to be put in prison? Well, it's almost essential for him to be there.

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