

**Date:** March 22, 2026

**Title:** No Ordinary Night

**Passage:** Genesis 40

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Summary:

- I. Trace God's providence in everything - good and bad (v.1-3)
- II. Be transformed by God's providence - whether good or bad (v.4-8)
- III. Translate God's providence into everything good. (v.9-13)
- IV. Translate God's providence in everything bad. (v. 16-19)
- V. Trust in God's providence in everything good and bad (v.20-23)

Key Truths:

- Why does God hide? So that He may be found. We fasten our soul onto His providence. We look at everything that is occurring knowing the truth that God is always doing all things at all times for His good purpose. As there is no ordinary day, there is no ordinary night.
- Pain hardens sinners and softens saints. In Christ, we should not wish away God's providence that kills our sin along with that pain.
- As Joseph was faithful to God's revelation in the interpretation of the dreams, we also ought to be faithful to God's Word to what it says and means. We cannot sugarcoat the hard truths of reality.

Application:

- In Christ, we are the only ones who know the promises of God. We are the only ones who can comprehend the providence of God.
- If the world remains lost, it is because we are not telling them. Like Joseph, we do not delight in the truth of the bad news that we are all sinners. But we must share so that we also share in the Gospel of Jesus Christ - that all those who trust in Him receive the free righteousness of Christ.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How have you seen God's providence in your life?
- Whether in the past or present season of suffering, what promises of God have helped or are helping you through it?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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**Introduction**

Providence

- What is it? God sees to it that all events accomplish His good purpose.

"Joseph"

- name meaning = do it again
- Why?

Genesis 30:24

And she called his name Joseph, saying, "May the LORD add to me another son!"

- Did Joseph contemplate his name's meaning and think that God had forgotten him? That people looked to another instead of him?

Answer: No. God always sees and knows.

Isaiah 49:15

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

**Context of Passage:**

Genesis 39:

- "God was with Joseph" - phrase was repeated throughout.

Genesis 39:23

The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

- yet in Genesis 40, that phrase is missing.

Why does God hide?

- So that He may be found.
- We fasten our soul onto His providence.
  - We look at everything that is occurring knowing the truth that God is always doing all things at all times for His good purpose.
  - As there is no ordinary day, there is no ordinary night.

**Passage:**

Genesis 40

**EXPOSITION**

## I. Trace God's Providence in Everything - Good and Bad (v.1-3)

### **Genesis 40:1**

***Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.***

*Some time after this,*

- At this moment, Joseph is about the age of 28.
  - Joseph was first put in a pit when he was 17.
  - Joseph was elevated by Pharaoh when he was 30.
- He has been imprisoned for 11 years.
- Joseph could easily echo the words of many Psalms such as:

### Psalms 13:1-2

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

*the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt.*

- "committed an offense" = sin.
- Joseph could have easily first responded to their predicament as "Who cares?"
  - Likewise, we may also struggle with God's providence with our own grumbling.

### **Genesis 40:2**

***And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker,***

- Why? See..

### **Genesis 40:3**

***and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined.***

*in the prison where Joseph was confined.*

- God's providence had it be that they would be where Joseph was.
  - We see how God is
- It is never good to pout about God's providence.
  - Instead, trace His providence.
  - Trace everything as the kindness of God.

## **II. Be transformed by God's providence - whether good or bad (v.4-8)**

### **Genesis 40:4**

***The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.***

*The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them,*

- God had allowed Joseph to be favored by the captain of the guard and promoted him.
- Who was the "captain of the guard"? Potiphar.

### **Genesis 37:36**

Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

- He appointed Joseph to be over others in prison.
- No evidence of Joseph complaining about being in prison.
  - See that the circumstances still reflect God's kindness.

### **Genesis 40:5**

***And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation.***

- Two members of the Pharaoh's elite happened to be sent to where Joseph was.

### **Genesis 40:6**

***When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. he saw that they were troubled.***

- They were uniquely distressed.

### **Genesis 40:7**

***So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?"***

- Joseph: his long years of suffering brought about sympathy.

### **Genesis 40:8**

***They said to him, “We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them.” And Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”***

- Joseph's sympathy helped unlock their concerns.

*Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me.”*

- Joseph's response shows His continued faith in God.
  - Joseph previously had his own dreams. Thereafter, he experienced betrayal and difficulty.
    - But Joseph was not bitter against God.
      - Joseph still recognized God alone is sovereign over all.

Song: "God moves in mysterious ways"

*Judge not the Lord by feeble sense*

*But trust Him for His grace*

*Behind a frowning providence*

*He hides a smiling face*

### **III. Translate God's providence into everything good. (v.9-13)**

#### **Genesis 40:9-11**

***So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, “In my dream there was a vine before me, and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. Pharaoh's cup was in my hand, and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.”***

- Dream by the cupbearer.

#### **Genesis 40:12-13**

***Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer.***

- Clear interpretation of the dream.

*This is its interpretation:*

- Cupbearer wasn't asked, "What does the dream mean to you?"
- There was only one meaning. Not open to multiple interpretations or meanings.

- Likewise, God's Word is not to be subject to plural views.
  - We must study and surrender to what the meaning God has for it.

**Genesis 40:14-15**

***Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.”***

*Only remember me, when it is well with you,*

- Joseph's state of mind:
  - Mixed bag.
    - This shows he was looking to a man for rescue.
    - But he did not show any sign of bitterness against his brothers or against Potiphar's wife.
- Pain hardens sinners and softens saints.
  - In Christ, we should not wish away God's providence that kills our sin along with that pain.
    - Here, more of Joseph must die while in prison

**IV. Translate God's providence in everything bad. (v. 16-19)**

**Genesis 40:16-17**

***When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, “I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head.”***

- Chief baker's dream.

*When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable,*

- Compare: the cupbearer was not expecting any favorable result. By the end, he was appreciative.
  - The chief baker, if he had gotten a favorable result, would have been more likely to remember Joseph if he gave a favorable interpretation.

**Genesis 40:18-19**

***And Joseph answered and said, “This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you.”***

- The interpretation of the dream was clear though not easy.
- Imagine how hard it was for Joseph to relay this interpretation.
  - Joseph still shared God's meaning even when it was hard.
    - Joseph still trusted in God's providence with care and compassion.
- Likewise, in Christ, we are the only ones who know the promises of God. We are the only ones who can comprehend the providence of God.
  - The world doesn't understand God's providence, which is the outworking of God's promises.
  - If the world remains lost, it is because we are not telling them.
    - Like Joseph, we do not delight in the truth of the bad news that we are all sinners. But we must share so that we also share in the Gospel of Jesus Christ - that all those who trust in Him receive the free righteousness of Christ.

John 6:37

All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

#### **V. Trust in God's providence in everything good and bad (v.20-23)**

**Genesis 40:20-23**

***On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.***

*Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

- Imagine the level of disappointment that Joseph initially worked through.
  - Joseph continued to wait for two more years afterwards.

Fast forward:

Genesis 41:51

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house.”

- While Joseph must have felt forgotten by God, God brought Him through such that he could forget the suffering though he clearly developed in character through it.

See Psalm 105

Psalms 105:1-4 (Tell of All His Wondrous Works)

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually!

Psalms 105:16-19

When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

- God's delays are not God's denials.
- God refined Joseph during the season of betrayal, rejection, and abandonment.
- God is one who gives us faith, protects our faith, proves our faith through the fires of affliction.
  - Why? So our faith will result in praise and glory when Jesus returns.

See book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 2:10-11

For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

- Jesus endured suffering for our sake, our salvation.

Hebrews 2:17-18

Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

- Jesus understands us because He Himself suffered.

Hebrews 3:12

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

- Don't stop believing that God is who He says He is.

- Jesus sympathizes with our failings.
- Be certain of God's mercy and grace.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Trust in God's providence - good and bad - because He is the One who loves us.