**Joyfully Enduring Disappointments**

***11/27/16***

*Gen 40:6-41:1*

*When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" 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."9 So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there was a vine before me, 10 and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. 11 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." 12 Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. 13 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. 14 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. 15 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."16 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, 17 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." 18 And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. 19 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."20 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. 21 He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. 22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.*

*41 After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,*

We are not going to focus on the dreams but on Joseph’s incredible disappointment…Not again Lord!

* This was yet another discouraging moment in 23 yrs of discouraging moments.
* Joseph was around 7 when mom died, was 17 when sold into slavery (37:2), worked 11 long, hard years as slave/prison with 2 yrs more in prison coming (41:1) Ps 105:1[7-21](javascript:%7b%7d)
  + Some of you can relate: physical, emotional, family

It is hard to believe that God is for us if tragedies last 13 yrs or we have several in a row or death.

* Yet there is no indication that Joseph ever doubted or was bitter toward God or consumed with the injustice of his situation. [Heb 13:5-6](javascript:%7b%7d), *Gen 40:1-8*

Joseph ought to be the one sad/cynical. Yet he’s cheering up others!

* Serving Christ by serving others kept Joseph from wallowing in self-pity.
  + Minister to others in your affliction. [Mk 10:45](javascript:%7b%7d), 2 Cor 1:3-5, [Phil 2:4](javascript:%7b%7d)
* Whether constant, recent or occasional disappointments, truth applies.

Joseph didn’t mourn his disappointments but became useful where he was.

* He took each situation as it came & didn’t focus on what he couldn’t do but did what could do with a positive attitude. [Col. 3:23](javascript:%7b%7d)
  + We can’t control & can not be responsible for others’ behavior/attitudes, but we are responsible for own behavior/attitudes. [*Phil 4:12-13*](javascript:%7b%7d)

Not unbiblical “positive thinking” or denying reality, but rather a joyful hope coming from knowing our loving Lord & trusting in His ways & promises.

* Believe: God sovereign, even when seems He has forgotten you in dungeon.
* Our heavenly father is never unfaithful or cruel, even when circumstances seem otherwise.
  + Interpret your circumstances by God’s love based on His Word, not God’s love by your circumstances.
    - Somehow this is for my good & God’s glory!
* Realize: undeserved suffering & adversity are normal in order to build faith, develop maturity, endurance. *Rom 5:3-5, Jam 1:2-4, 1 Pet 4:12-13*

Disappointment begins when hopes for answers to our problems are not met in the timing or way we expect. We’re not where we thought we’d be! *Gen 40:9-15, 20- 23*

* God’s better plan and purpose meant waiting, being frustrated, perplexed, and patient
  + It Glorified God to delay release. Maybe thinks cupbearer his rescuer.

Disappointments move us either to despair/anger or hope/trust in Lord.

* By God’s grace, Joseph did not become cynical, angry, but rather godly, mature, and hope filled
  + Through trials the Lord made Joseph stronger not weaker, gentle not bitter, forgiving and not vengeful, as he hoped/delighted in God.

Disappointments are good in sense that they strip us of hope in ourselves/others.

* Brings us to a place of finding our joy & contentment in Christ alone, not in easier life.
* The peace Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but confidence that He there with you always.
  + He is sovereign, faithful, caring & LOVING at all times,
    - Joyfully endure life’s disappointment’s by delighting in Christ.
    - Then we can delight in Jesus especially when life is hard & does not make sense. *Jn 16:33,* *Ps 23*