



Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. – Genesis 40:1-3

In Genesis 40 Joseph is waiting because there is nothing else he can do. He can't get out of prison, he can't appeal his sentence, and he certainly can't escape. He's stuck in an Egyptian prison, far from home where they think he's dead anyway. He has been falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife. So, he waits .... Most of us hate to wait, especially if we don't know for how long, or for what purpose, or how our waiting will ultimately turn out.

What do you do while you're waiting ... Gen. 40

- I. Remain ... vs. 1-4 Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."
II. Stand on ... vs. 5-8 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."
III. Take the ... vs. 9-15 Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."
IV. Don't Focus on the ... vs. 23 Psalm 37:39 "The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble."
Philippians 4:8-9 "Finally, ... if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things ... and the God of peace will be with you"

Some Reflection ...

- I. We're all living ... How will you live yours?
II. God is ... we could learn from Him.
III. A ... is never an excuse for us to walk away from doing what we know to do. Be faithful.

- 1. What is it about waiting that you don't like? Think about the question. Spend some time and critique your own answers. Is it really the pause you don't like? Or is it the quiet? Or the uncertainty? Or the lack of control? Or something else ... Work through this with your group or family. Have some fun with it. But learn something about yourself.
2. Think about the question ... "Do I tend to judge God's goodness by this life or by eternity?" By what happens to us while we are on this planet or by the promise of better things to come? Come on, let's be honest. Our answer to that question can be very revealing – and challenging. Why did you answer the way you did?
3. As much as we might desire to have a life free of hardships, the Bible teaches us that, as Christians, hardships can play an important role in shaping who we become. How do the following passages help us understand this role and the attitude God wants us to have towards them?
Romans 5:3-5 James 1:2-4 Romans 8:28-30 1 Peter 1:3-9

What is most challenging for you in accepting what these passages say about hardship? In what ways can the truths in these passages be helpful to you in handling difficult times in your life?
4. Joseph's story reminds us that it will be okay someday, so we should remain faithful and not quit. God is committed to meeting us in the midst of life's challenges to help us persevere through them. What encouragement do you find in the following passages for continuing to trust and follow God even when the going gets tough?
Matthew 11:28-30 2 Cor. 1:3-4 2 Cor. 1:8-11 John 14:1-4

Is there a time in your life when you experienced the rest, comfort or hope talked about in the verses above?
A very common verse that is often quoted during hardship is 1 Corinthians 10:13. Read the verse a few times. Can you think of any ways this verse could be misused to apply to situations dealing with hardship instead of temptation?
Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) - "Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do."



Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined. – Genesis 40:1-3

In Genesis 40 Joseph is waiting because there is nothing else he can do. He can't get out of prison, he can't appeal his sentence, and he certainly can't escape. He's stuck in an Egyptian prison, far from home where they think he's dead anyway. He has been falsely accused of rape by Potiphar's wife. So, he waits .... Most of us hate to wait, especially if we don't know for how long, or for what purpose, or how our waiting will ultimately turn out.

**What do you do while you're waiting ... Gen. 40**

**I. Remain Faithful ... vs. 1-4**

Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."

**II. Stand on Ready ... vs. 5-8**

1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

**III. Take the Initiative ... vs. 9-15**

Ephesians 5:15-16 "Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

**IV. Don't Focus on the Setbacks ... vs. 23**

Psalms 37:39 "The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble."

Philippians 4:8-9 "Finally, ... if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things ... and the God of peace will be with you"

**Some Reflection ...**

- I. We're all living in the dash ... How will you live yours?
- II. God is never in a hurry ... we could learn from Him.
- III. A bad situation is never an excuse for us to walk away from doing what we know to do. Be faithful.

1. What is it about waiting that you don't like? Think about the question. Spend some time and critique your own answers. Is it really the pause you don't like? Or is it the quiet? Or the uncertainty? Or the lack of control? Or something else ... Work through this with your group or family. Have some fun with it. But learn something about yourself.
2. Think about the question ... "Do I tend to judge God's goodness by this life or by eternity?" By what happens to us while we are on this planet or by the promise of better things to come? Come on, let's be honest. Our answer to that question can be very revealing – and challenging. Why did you answer the way you did?
3. As much as we might desire to have a life free of hardships, the Bible teaches us that, as Christians, hardships can play an important role in shaping who we become. How do the following passages help us understand this role and the attitude God wants us to have towards them?

Romans 5:3-5 James 1:2-4 Romans 8:28-30 1 Peter 1:3-9

What is most challenging for you in accepting what these passages say about hardship? In what ways can the truths in these passages be helpful to you in handling difficult times in your life?

4. Joseph's story reminds us that it will be okay someday, so we should remain faithful and not quit. God is committed to meeting us in the midst of life's challenges to help us persevere through them. What encouragement do you find in the following passages for continuing to trust and follow God even when the going gets tough?

Matthew 11:28-30 2 Cor. 1:3-4 2 Cor. 1:8-11 John 14:1-4

Is there a time in your life when you experienced the rest, comfort or hope talked about in the verses above?

A very common verse that is often quoted during hardship is 1 Corinthians 10:13. Read the verse a few times. Can you think of any ways this verse could be misused to apply to situations dealing with hardship instead of temptation?

Ephesians 5:15-17 (NLT) - "Be careful how you live, not as fools but as those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days. Don't act thoughtlessly, but try to understand what the Lord wants you to do."