

LESSON 4

Genesis 39:13–20 • Joseph in jail

Joseph has been unfairly accused by Mrs. Potiphar, and thrown in jail, even though he was completely innocent! He actually honored Potiphar and his marriage, yet Joseph was convicted because of someone else's sin.

See **1 Peter 4:12–16 & 19**

Should we be surprised when suffer unfairly? Why not? _____

Peter says we should never suffer as _____ but only because of

What does Peter say about faith in vs 19? _____

Does Joseph in this situation remind you of Jesus in some way? _____

When falsely charged (and convicted) of assaulting Mrs. Potiphar, Joseph doesn't say anything in his own defense. It is almost as if Joseph is simply, and completely, trusting in God's plan in his situation.

Look up these references. What do they describe?

1 Peter 2:21–23 _____

Matthew 27:12–14 _____

Genesis 39:21–40:7 • The prison prospers under Joseph's care

This is the third time that we see Joseph's PRUDENCE—everything is once again flourishing under his management and care. First—managing his family's herding business. Second—managing Potiphar's household. Now, third—managing the very prison where he was being held captive.

If you were unfairly imprisoned, what would *your* attitude be? _____

How would you make the best of it? _____

2 Timothy 2:8-10 • How does Paul think about being imprisoned? _____

Philippians 4:11-13 • How was Paul able to be content in his circumstances? _____

God's Providence

Potiphar, we read in 39:1, is the captain of Pharaoh's guard. He is in charge of the prison which holds Pharaoh's enemies. When he jails Joseph, Potiphar is unknowingly putting Joseph the place where he will make a connection with Pharaoh's butler and baker! Coincidence? Nope—God is in control!

What would have happened if Joseph had given up in prison? What if he would have felt sorry for himself and lost his trust in God? What if he failed to serve his fellow prisoners and help others to prosper in his difficult circumstances?

I'll answer this one for you—Joseph remained faithful! The prison prospered under his care. We don't have to speculate about what would have happened!

1 Peter 1:6-9 • Summarize how this relates to Joseph _____

Here's a similar story: how God's providence is seen Esther's story.

Esther 4:13-14 • What does Mordecai tell Esther about her "unfortunate" circumstance of being taken in marriage to the king of Persia? _____
