



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon



From Prison to Praise 6 Building a Throne of Praise

Genesis Chapters 39:1 – Genesis 40:23

ORDER OF SERVICE: Light Candles & Pray; Sing Children's Songs; Read Children's Story; Read Coloring/Craft Page & Dismiss Young Children up to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching' song. Adult Fellowship Break; Worship Songs, Bible Lesson, Group Prayer.

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

I WILL BUILD A THRONE OF PRAISE,
WHERE JESUS WILL REIGN FOR ALL OF MY DAYS

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

1. INTRODUCTION: Last week we left Joseph stripped of his royal robe and family, and he had been sold as a slave. We saw that those whom God has uses greatly, must go through a wilderness training experience. Joseph knew who he was, and that his identity was not found in his circumstances. Today we will see that the devil would like us to stay in a dark prison to keep us ineffective as Christians, but we belong to the Lord. Joseph continued to serve God and praising Him even as a slave, and God lived mightily through Joseph's life and blessed him.

OBJECTS TO BRING: Crown Craft & Jewels, Large Serving Tray, Weed, Old Shoe, Broken Toy, Empty Wallet, Carton, Medicine, Flower

2. EVEN WITHOUT HOPE, JOSEPH HONORS GOD.

Joseph was sold into slavery in 1690 BC, and found himself living in a very different world without the love of God, where his captors worshipped idols. Many would be angry or tempted to give up on their faith in such a hopeless situation.



Genesis 39:1 “And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.”



In antiquity, what is today known as Luxor was the seat of Amun-Re, sun god and king of the gods, from 2000 BC until about AD 500. Known as Thebes in Greek and Waset in Egyptian, the entire city—spanning both sides of the Nile - was essentially one huge temple complex divided into four distinct sections. Luxor Temple, Ipet Resyet - which was the site of Amun-Re's birth and creation - is located on the East Bank, the land of the rising sun. Two miles to the north on the East Bank lies the massive Karnak Temple, Ipet Swt, where Amun resided in palatial splendor for most of the year. Because the Egyptians believed that time was an endlessly repeating circle, Amun of Karnak was obliged to return to Luxor Temple annually to perform the act of creation and to be reborn during the festival of Opet, one of the great celebrations of the Egyptian religious calendar. www.getty.edu *Western Thebes: Boraiik & Johnson*

Even when he was forced to live in a world of pagan unbelief where Joseph could not know why such evil had befallen him, nor could he see any hope of escape, Joseph continued to trust and honor God.

3. GOD'S FAVOR REMAINED WITH JOSEPH

***Genesis 39:2-4** “And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. ³ And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.”*

The kind of faith that goes with us into dark times in our life does not come without making time to be in God's presence, so that His ways become a way of life, like the air we breathe.

***Psalms 1:1-3** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”*

Are my roots growing deep in the water of God's word? Am I securely rooted in Jesus so that no matter where I am, His word is in me, as water for my soul so that His blessing goes with me?



***Genesis 39:5-6** “And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. ⁶ And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.”*

Joseph found great favor with Potiphar because he honored God, so that Joseph became a powerful man in Egypt.

***Proverbs 16:7** “When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

4. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A TEMPTATION

Genesis 39:7 “And it came to pass after these thing, that his master’s wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.”

Of course Satan would have a temptation lying in wait for Joseph in his time of weakness, when Joseph must surely have needed to feel loved. Satan puts other ideas in our heads in times like this, such as maybe that lecherous person has had a really hard life, and needs some Godly counsel, perhaps God wants me to help them? No!

James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

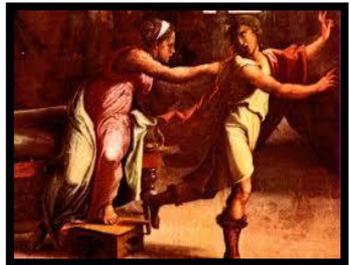
James 1:12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”

No matter the test, Joseph refused to sin against God or Potiphar.

Genesis 39:8-9 “But he refused, and said unto his master’s wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; ⁹ there is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”

Then one day when Joseph came to work, Potiphar’s wife had sent the servants away and she grabbed him!

Genesis 39:10-12 “And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. ¹¹ And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. ¹² And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”



When you try your best things can still go wrong and may look bad for a while, but you can trust that God is greater than any lie.

5. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO LIE

Genesis 39:13-15 *“And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, ¹⁴ that she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: ¹⁵ and it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.”*

Potiphar’s wife told everyone a lie that Joseph had tried to rape her! Now what will Joseph do? Everyone will be gossiping! His reputation will be ruined, and his future is looking not so good.

Psalms 3:2-4 *“Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. ³ But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. ⁴ I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah”*

When it seems everyone is against us and our future looks hopeless, no matter how impossible our unfair situation appears, we can trust in God and know that He always hears, and His answer will come.

Genesis 39:16-20 *“And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. ¹⁷ And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: ¹⁸ and it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. ²⁰ And Joseph’s master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.”*



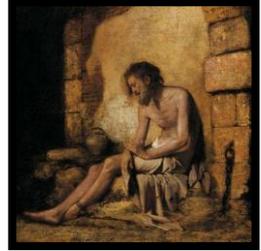
Of course Joseph would have prayed, but Potiphar believed his wife and Joseph was thrown into prison! When you pray and do not see deliverance, you can trust God that He has a plan and you are in it.

6. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE UNFAIR PUNISHMENT.

Psalm 46:1 *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

So Joseph found himself in prison, bound to a filthy rack with irons and chains, but God was with Joseph in his time of trouble.

Genesis 39:21-23 *“But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.²² 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.²³ The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.”*



Though Joseph was faithful to God and had done nothing wrong, he was still in that awful prison. But God gave him such favor that the keeper of the prison gave him authority over all the prisoners! There are times in each of our lives when we are treated unfairly, but we can see through Joseph’s example that if we handle horrible situations with grace, God will do amazing things in our life!

Proverbs 16:7 *“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

Because Joseph honored God by helping everyone, God caused good things to come to him. Joseph reaped a harvest of blessing because he trusted God and never gave up.

Galatians 6:9 *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

God didn’t stop Joseph from having to go to prison, but He went with him and gave him favor. No matter what you may have to go through, God will go with you if you ask Him to.

7. GOD COULD USE JOSEPH IN PRISON BECAUSE JOSEPH PRAISED GOD IN EVERY THING.

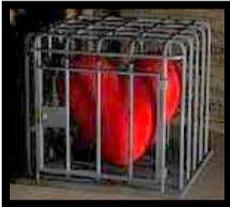
Those who God leads in dreams of greatness must understand that before God raises up, God humbles. Before you can understand the greatness of God you must, like Joseph and like Paul, understand what it means to give up your own life, to become a servant.

Philippians 2:5-8 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ and being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death,** even the death of the cross.”



1 Corinthians 11:1 “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”

Do you really want to be like Jesus? Then you must die to yourself, allow pride to be stripped away, and only need to have God’s favor.



Joseph didn't complain and yell out curses like the other prisoners but looked for a need and filled it. When life is unfair, **we can complain and create a prison in our heart,** or we can praise God and watch Him perform miracles! God gave Joseph favor with the keeper of the prison who loosed his chains, and put him in charge!

Psalms 22:3 “But thou art holy, O thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.”

Who is Israel? All who believe! When you go through some terrible thing, first praise God, then look for a need and fill it! You can know that as you honor God, He will use that terrible thing for His glory, save you and many others, and in the process you become strong!

Because Joseph honored God, God blessed everything he did.

GOD LIVES IN THE PRAISES OF HIS PEOPLE!

8. GOD REMEMBERED JOSEPH & GOD REMEMBERS ME

Pharaoh was also offended by his butler and baker so with his quick temper, he had them thrown into prison too!

Genesis 40:1-15 “And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended ² And Pharaoh ...put them ... into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound...And they dreamed a dream both of them...And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are



three days: ¹³ yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler.

¹⁴ But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house... ¹⁶ When the

chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said unto Joseph, I also was in my dream, and, behold, I had three white baskets on my head: ¹⁷ and in the upper most basket there was of all manner of bakemeats for Pharaoh; and the birds did eat them out of the basket upon my head. ¹⁸ And Joseph answered and said, This is the interpretation thereof: The three baskets are three days: ¹⁹ yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree; and the birds shall eat thy flesh from off thee.



Pharaoh sent for the men and the dreams came true just as Joseph had said! Does God speak to people today like He spoke to Joseph?

Acts 2:17 “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”

Yes, the Bible says in the last days people will dream dreams and tell others, so love the Lord with all your heart and expect to hear from Him!

9. JOSEPH HEARD FROM GOD, AND HE SAVED OTHERS, BUT LIFE STILL DID NOT TURN OUR AS HE EXPECTED

Genesis 40:20-23 “And it came to pass the third day, which was Pharaoh’s birthday, that he made a feast unto all his servants: and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹ And he restored the chief butler unto his butlership again; and he gave the cup into Pharaoh’s hand: ²² but he hanged the chief baker: as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³ Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.”

But the butler forgot about his promise and Joseph had to stay in prison for two more years! Poor Joseph surely wondered if God may have forgotten about him. Have you ever felt like God may have forgotten about you? Joseph must have been tempted to give up, but God didn’t forget Joseph and God will never forget about you! How w are we to serve our our time here?

Luke 19:13 “And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.”



Joseph occupied the place where God had put him, by serving others. No matter what comes our way, we are to carry on with our Father’s business and watch over His vineyard until He comes. 50 years ago, Joni Erickson Tada had a terrible diving accident that left her paralyzed from the neck down, yet she devotes her life to God’s by ministering to those in need . Joni is an amazing example of being a servant while stuck in a very difficult place, and trusting Jesus until He comes. We do not have to understand. The key to peace is to be content in Christ, and He gives us His grace so we may become everything He desires for us to be.

Psalms 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

**GOD KNOWS, HE SEES, AND HE HAS A PLAN.
BE STILL AND KNOW THAT GOD IS GOD**

10. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. Finding good in others will change their life for good.
2. Even when hope is gone I can honor God and praise Him.
3. When I abide in Christ He gives me His favor.
4. There will always be a temptation but I can trust God.
5. There will always be those who lie and are unfair, but I can honor God with my life, and praise Him because He is God.
6. God may not stop bad things from happening in my life but He promises to be there with me and help me through.
7. When times are tough and God seems far away, I will praise Him more, and know that He is near because He lives in the praises of His people.
8. When life is not fair and I am hurting, praising God and finding good, will keep me from becoming a prisoner in my own heart.
9. No matter what comes, I will serve God and expect to hear from Him like Joseph, and I will exalt His name everywhere I go.
10. When times are hard and life does not turn out the way I expect, I will be still and know that God is God, and trust Him.

Psalm 4:20-22 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹ Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²² For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

Psalm 103:1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name."

Dear Father God, Forgive me when I forget to trust You when things go wrong. Lord Jesus, right now, I place my whole heart, my whole life in Your hand, and put my trust in you. I pray that you will show me the place you have planned for me to watch over your vineyard until you come, where I can serve those you bring into my path. When I cannot see ahead, help me to trust you to carry me through hard times and praise you, remembering that you live in the praises of your people. Help me to find a need and fill it, and have integrity like Joseph, so that whether times are easy or difficult, others will see Your glory in my life and want to know more about you. Help me to live my life for you and praise you because you are God, for you are worthy of all honor and praise, in Jesus name, Amen.

11. LIFE PARABLE – POLLYANNA



When I was a little girl, I saw a movie "Pollyanna" that changed my life, so much so, that I named one of my daughters, "Dollyanna"! The main character in the story is a little girl who is left an orphan after her missionary parents died from an illness while serving in a foreign country. She is taken in by her very well-meaning and wealthy, but sour-natured Aunt Polly. As you watch, the small town full of mean complaining people, begins to change day by day, one by one, after the arrival of this unwanted and unloved little girl who refused to let anyone's sour attitude affect her. Pollyanna's servant heart was learned from her father who taught her to play "The Glad Game". Pollyanna went about town finding some small thing for each person to be glad for, and then the transformation would begin.

Pollyanna was like Joseph, thrown into a strange prison world where she was not wanted. The love of Jesus instilled in Pollyanna by her parents, through the Glad Game that taught her to always find one good thing in everyone and in every situation, caused not only herself but the entire town where she was sent, to become transformed into the image of Jesus Christ. The change was not visible to her until after she had a terrible accident with no hope of recovery. Pollyanna decided to give up on hope, and believed her glad game had been of no use. It was then that the whole town turned out to tell her one by one, beginning with the first impossibly depressed and sour woman that she had visited, how her faith in them had changed their lives!

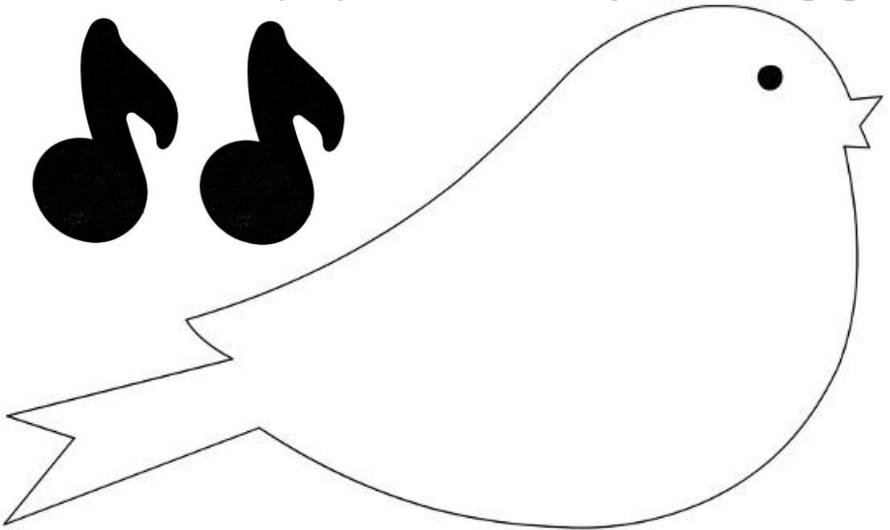


Pollyanna's glad game is what we would call living a life of praise. Praising God in every situation, with every breath will transform our own lives and spill over into the lives of others around us. God lives in the praises of His people! If you want the presence of God to reign in your life, build a throne of praise for Him to inhabit! Pollyanna built thrones of praise for God to be seated, everywhere she went. She is a picture of God's power to transform our world around us when we give Jesus full authority to reign in our lives!

12. GOSPEL CRAFT

Directions For Praising Jesus Craft:

1. **Paint** upper half of **Paper Plate** blue, and lower half brown.
2. Copy **Bird** onto blue card stock and cut out.
3. Color **Beak** yellow and glue **Feather** for wing.
4. Glue **Google Eye** on the dot.
5. Glue bird to sit inside the nest.
6. Cut out **Song Note** and glue above beak.
7. Cut out **Verse** and glue to sky.
8. Cut our **Purpose** and glue to nest.
9. Glue a few **Twigs** under the bird.
10. **Punch Hole** in top of plate to attach a Fuzzy Stick for hanging.



"Be still, and know that I am God:

*I will be exalted among the heathen,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

Psalm 46:10

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME

**I WILL BUILD A THRONE OF PRAISE,
WHERE JESUS WILL REIGN
FOR ALL OF MY DAYS**