

# The Life of Joseph.

Week #3: *Suffering & Mistreatment*

May 28, 2023

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The Bible doesn't just talk about truth but demonstrates what happens in the lives of people when God's truths and instructions are either followed or rejected.

Joseph, a real person found in the pages of Genesis, is an individual who embodies some of the most significant truths in the Bible. In a life filled with everything from false accusations and mistreatment to arriving at the pinnacle of wealth and power, Joseph exemplifies forgiveness, freedom from bitterness, faith & a positive attitude – all the unexpected results of God's truths being put into action. Most important, Joseph is someone who learns and holds to Rule #1, "God's in charge". When we follow this rule, letting Him lead in our relationships, life goes better.

Let's learn together God's truths demonstrated through this individual's life.

Questions: *Week #3 – Suffering & Mistreatment: When bad things happen to us*

1. Read Genesis 39:20 - 40:23
  - If Joseph believed in "fate" or karma or stoicism, what kind of condition would he be in by the end of chapter 40?
  - How much faith does Joseph likely have in people?
  - Read Hebrews 11:1-2 & 6. How much faith does Joseph have in God?
  - What gets in the way of people embracing faith in God? What gets in your way?
2. Joseph seems able to look at suffering differently – somehow, he finds hope where there appears to be little.
  - PK said that suffering & mistreatment are 'religious' questions that require spiritual answers. Take some time to consider the various 'religious' responses to suffering, including our modern secular worldview.
    - How do each instruct us to understand and respond to suffering?
    - What does the Bible say?
3. Despite the cupbearer's dream being correctly interpreted, and his reinstatement (and his observance of the baker's dream, interpretation & death), the man promptly forgot about Joseph, leaving him abandoned in prison.
  - How could this man have possibly forgotten about Joseph? When have you felt abandoned by your "friends"? When have you abandoned them?
  - Read Colossians 3:12-17 & Ephesians 1:16-17. Why is it so important that God's people hold on to one another, practicing the behaviour of the Kingdom?
  - Who needs your care & support right now?
4. Does God seem to work more through Joseph's "ups" or his "downs"? ... or is this even a fair question?
  - Chapter 40 ends with Joseph living in prison, forgotten by the cupbearer, and staring at a bleak future. Yet, God is still with him and preparing him for his future.
    - How might God be using your circumstances to prepare you for your future?
    - Are you able to embrace the hope of Jesus today, despite the incredible brokenness of our world?
    - Spend some time thanking God: that He understands suffering; that He suffers with us and for us; that in Jesus, He provides a future beyond suffering, filled with His grace and love.