

SURVIVING GOD'S WAITING ROOM

GENESIS 40:23-41:16

SERIES: WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS

²³ But [even after all that] the chief butler gave no thought to Joseph, but forgot [all about] him. ... ¹ AFTER TWO full years, Pharaoh dreamed that he stood by the river [Nile]. **Genesis 40:23-41:1 (AMP)**

1. JOSEPH WAS IN GOD'S WAITING ROOM 13 YEARS!

- We can read the Genesis account of Joseph in about an hour
- Joseph was about 17 when sold into slavery and 30 when he was brought before Pharaoh.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. **Genesis 37:28 (NIV)**

³⁶ Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard. **Genesis 37:36 (NIV)**

²⁰ Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, **Genesis 39:20 (NIV)**

¹⁴ "Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house. **Genesis 40:14 (NASB)**

²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him. **Genesis 40:23 (NASB)**

¹ Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and behold, he was standing by the Nile. **Genesis 41:1 (NASB)**

✓ **While Joseph was waiting, God was working!**

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE OFTEN IN A HURRY, GOD IS NOT

✓ The pages of Scripture are filled with exhortations to wait upon the Lord. To wait means to hope to look to God for all we need, it does not mean to do nothing.

⁵ I wait for the Lord, I expectantly wait, and in His word do I hope. ⁶ I am looking *and* waiting for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, I say, more than watchmen for the morning. ⁷ O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is mercy *and* loving-kindness, and with Him is plenteous redemption.

Psalm 130:5-7 (AMP)

³¹ But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change *and* renew their strength *and* power; they shall lift their wings *and* mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint *or* become tired. **Isaiah 40:31 (AMP)**

➤ *When you consider your present circumstances, in which you are currently waiting on the Lord: are you 100% invested in waiting on the Lord or are you also "investing" in things like worry or your own backup plans?*

3. WAITING IS A SUSTAINED EFFORT TO STAY FOCUSED ON GOD

⁷ Be still *and* rest in the Lord; wait for Him *and* patiently lean yourself upon Him; fret not yourself because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked devices to pass. **Psalm 37:7 (AMP)**

²⁵ I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the [uncompromisingly] righteous forsaken or their seed begging bread. **Psalm 37:25 (AMP)**

²⁴ To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. **Jude 1:24-25 (NIV)**