

## The Waiting is the Hardest Part, Devotional For March 23, 2020

Joseph could see it. I don't know at what point it became clear to him. Maybe he knew it all along. But he definitely saw it, and maybe that's what helped him persevere beyond his own ability. Something had to help him. There is no other reasonable explanation for his perspective and endurance.

Whereas most people would have given way to despair and bitterness, becoming overwhelmed to the point of giving up, Joseph kept the faith. He did so for 13 years while enslaved in Egypt. (Genesis 41:46-48), during his 7 years in service to Pharaoh while the land was abundant, and then the 2 years of famine until he was reunited with his family (Genesis 45:4-11).

He had eyes to see beyond his present circumstances, which were far from what he could have desired. He saw the faithfulness of God, and how he could redeem his life and his time in service to God.

Isn't that what happens? We feel as if our life and times are wasting away, while we are helpless to change our present circumstances. We are chasing a dream like Joseph...whether it is a calling, or an opportunity, or a relationship, or maybe just the end of this trying season we're in and the beginning of the next. It seems so far out of reach, so unlikely.

To think of life or circumstances changing cannot be conceived. At times, we are unable to conjure up *how on earth* rescue or redemption could come. Just like Joseph, the moment before Pharaoh called him up out of his prison, he was clueless as to how life could possibly change, how problems could be resolved. But life did change! Almost in an instant!

And life can change for us as well, but we have to have eyes to see and faith to wait like Joseph!

How do we do that? Joseph teaches us about seeing beyond what is in front of us and actually looking at life *differently*. He did not focus on *what* was wrong as much as he focused on *who* was in charge of the "temporary" circumstances. This perspective is seen as he explained to his brothers in Genesis 45:5-7 that they were *not* the reason he was in Egypt. He was there because God sent him ahead of them. He goes on to say in the last chapter of Genesis that what man intended for evil, God used for good, for accomplishing what was intended, *the saving of many lives*.

So we learn Joseph was looking for God in God's purpose, and in God's circumstances, more than he was looking to achieve his own perceived purposes of rescue and relief. This reminds me of two other verses:

**Romans 8:28**, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to *His* purpose."

Joseph had the faith to wait upon the Lord, for the unfolding of God's plan that had to be *sovereign* over the present problems. The circumstances may be out of control, but God was always in complete control, and could contain the worst of times into the glorious submission of God's perfect will.

This translated into *hope!*

Hope is ever so committed to our endurance. Where there is hope, we are able to make it one more minute, one more hour, one more day, one more year.

The second verse is found in **Isaiah 64: 4-5**. "Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways ."

Joseph knew there would be good to come from waiting upon the Lord. He had seen it in the life of Abraham, and of Isaac, and his own father Jacob. God had covenanted with them to be their God. That promise was meant for him too and was well worth remembering.

*Faith that remembers well, is then able to wait well.*

What are you waiting for?

What is beyond your vision of being realized?

Remember our hope does not rest upon the likelihood of our circumstances being resolved or our future plans being nailed down. Eyes to see and faith to wait.....these are key to persevering until *our* time is redeemed and *God's* purpose achieved for us, just as it was for Joseph. Wait on God.