**SDG - Lesson #22**

**Genesis – Chapter 39**

1. Following the brief interlude of chapter 38 following the lineage of Judah, Genesis returns to lineage of Jacob and focuses o Joseph who had been sold into slavery. Joseph was truly a victim of injustice but Moses, the author of Genesis, makes the point that Joseph had not been abandoned by God. Read the following verses. How do these verses reveal God’s faithfulness to Joseph?

The LORD:

Vs. 2 - was with Joseph

Vs. 3 - was with him; caused all that he did to succeed

Vs. 5 - blessed the Egyptians house for Joseph’s sake

Vs. 21- was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love

Vs. 23- was with him; made it succeed.

2. What is the significance that name, “LORD,” was used in each of these verses?

LORD is the translation of God’s personal name Yahweh or “I AM.” I AM is present tense and in the present tense of Joseph’s life it could be read I Am with Joseph. The use of this name stresses God’s personal attention to Joseph.

3. Why was God faithful to Joseph? (vs. 5) What does this mean?

Verse 5 records that He did it for Joseph’s sake. Joseph was a righteous man who was in a terrible situation and didn’t deserve what was happening. For his sake, God blessed Joseph and turned each situation into a blessing.

4. Through this account we see no wavering in Joseph’s faith or spirit. Rather, we see that Joseph works hard and is honest. Read Ephesians 6:6. What does this say about the attitude of a slave?

Slaves are to act as servants of Christ and render service with a good will.

5. There is a word that describes a person who does what God commands or seeks to do what is right. Such a person is said to be Righteous.

6. This is a trait we should all seek to achieve. What do the following verses say about this trait?

Psalm 89:14 Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God’s throne.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation – the nation that pursues righteousness is blessed.

Jeremiah 23:6 The LORD is our righteousness – this is a reference to Christ.

Philippians 3:9 Through faith we receive the righteousness of Christ.

Isaiah 32:17 The effect of righteousness is peace.

Daniel 12:3 Those who lead others to righteousness will shine, that is, bring great glory to God.

Galatians 3:11 The righteous shall live by faith.

7. God was faithful for “Joseph’s sake.” Read 1st Peter 3:12. What do we learn about God and His righteous people?

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous.

8. Someone might hear this and think that we are saved or get God’s attention by our righteous deeds. What does Romans 3:10 say about this?

No one is righteous, no, not one.

9. Romans 3:10 and Galatians 3:11 seem to be in conflict. Consider all of the verses that you have read. What is the message of righteousness? Complete the following statement:

No one is Righteous, no, not one. That includes me. I am a sinner and fall short of the glory of God. However, the Lord is our Righteousness. Through Faith we receive the Righteousness of Christ. The effect of this is that we now have Peace. We also are called to lead others to Righteousness, or Christ, who is our Righteousness.

We have just taken a little journey into the Biblical teachings of righteousness. Righteousness comes through faith and the faithful pursue righteousness for the sake of God and to the glory of His name. God Himself is righteous and righteously watched over His faithful servant Joseph. Keep these thoughts of righteousness as we continue this lesson and focus on the life of one of God’s faithful and righteous servants, Joseph.

10. Who bought Joseph? What position did this person have in Pharaoh’s court?

Joseph was bought by Potiphar, a captain of the guard in Egypt.

11. What did Potiphar do as a result of Joseph’s faithful righteousness?

Potiphar made Joseph the overseer of his house.

12. Read Matthew 25:21. How was Joseph a physical fulfillment of this teaching?

Joseph was faithful in a little and eventually was given charge over much.

13. How complete was Joseph’s service to Potiphar? (vs.6)

The only concern that Potiphar had was what he was going to eat.

14. How was Joseph fulfilling the covenant of 12:2-3?

Joseph was a blessing to others.

15. We know that Joseph was faithful and righteous. How is he physically described? How was this a challenge?

Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. This was a huge challenge because Potiphar’s wife was drawn or attracted to him.

16. Potiphar’s wife wanted Joseph to sin. According to Joseph, why wouldn’t he engage in this sin?

Vss. 8-9a Joseph would have broken the trust of Potiphar if he sinned.

Vs. 9b Joseph would have sinned against God.

17. Potiphar’s wife physically grabbed Joseph and he fled leaving his garment behind (vss. 11-12). What was Potiphar’s wife’s first reaction this? (vs. 13) Why?

She called out to the other men servants. Since Joseph was put in charge, he was over these servants and treated better. This might give one of them a chance to replace Joseph.

18. What points did she make to this group?

Potiphar’s wife:

1. Blames Potiphar for purchasing Joseph.
2. Invokes the race card.
3. Claims that Joseph did this to make fun of everyone in the household.

19. What points did she make to her husband?

Potiphar’s wife changed her approach a little with her husband, she:

1. She starts with the race card.
2. Blames Potiphar for bringing Joseph into the house.
3. Claimed Joseph came in to her to laugh at or mock her.

20. Potiphar immediately threw Joseph in prison. What do we know about this prison?

This prison was for those who had done wrong against Pharaoh. This is a significant point – see culture note.

**Culture Note: Prison**

**Nowhere in the Old Testament laws is there any mention of prison. A guilty party either made restitution, was cut off or was executed. This holds true for other countries in the region too. However, Egypt is the exception! This account, while contrary to a Hebrew mindset, fits in well with what we know of Egyptian practices. It therefore gives validity to the accuracy of the account.**

21. How did Joseph react to his imprisonment?

Joseph is again faithfully righteous. God blessed him and the jailer trusted him and put him in charge of all the prisoners.

**Chapter 40**

22. Who was put in prison with Joseph? Why?

The Pharaoh’s cupbearer and baker were put in prison because they had committed an offense against Pharaoh.

23. What was the significance of having dreams at the time of Joseph? People saw the dreams, as a way for the god’s to speak to them.

24. “There is no one to interpret them.” Who normally would interpret dreams? (41:8)

The magicians and wise men would interpret dreams.

25. Who did Joseph claim was the only one who could interpret dreams?

Joseph identifies that God alone could interpret dreams.

26. What is the significance of the number 3 in the Bible?

3 is the number of God.

27. Notice that in both dreams the number 3 is predominant. What was being represented by the 3 branches and 3 baskets?

The 3 branches and baskets represented 3 days.

28. Following 3 days, what three things would the cupbearer experience? The baker?

Cupbearer:

1. His head lifted up (no longer downcast).
2. Restored to office.
3. Place cup in Pharaoh’s hand.

Baker:

1. His head lifted off.
2. Hanged on a tree.
3. Flesh eaten by birds.

29. What did Joseph ask from the cupbearer? Why? What happened?

Joseph asked for him to mention to Pharaoh his plight. He was unjustly sold into slavery and put into prison. However, the cupbearer forgot Joseph.

30. A careful reading of verse 14 reveals how much trust the jailer had put in Joseph. What do you notice about Joseph’s incarceration?

Joseph was no longer in the prison but in a house, probably the jailers.