

[Gen 39:20-23 ESV] 20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. 23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

Steadfast Love

I. Intro

- A. 7 P's: today we look further into the Prison
 - 1. A Prison is not a place that we normally connect to God's steadfast love
 - 2. Especially when wrongly accused and in a desperate spot
 - 3. But we learn more of God's steadfast love in these times than any other.
- B. Meant For Good
- C. This sermon series needs a week to breathe
 - 1. We have covered a lot of challenge and blessing
 - 2. We have dealt with the foundational truth that God's plan will continue on.

II. Text

- A. Verse 20: The fact that he is in prison is restated 3 times, just to make sure we get it.
- B. Verse 21:
 - 1. BUT the LORD was with Joseph
 - 2. SHOWED HIM STEADFAST LOVE
 - a) HESED, Hebrew word often translated as kindness
 - b) Also translates as: Mercy, goodness, lovingkindness
 - c) Enemies of God will point to circumstances rather than spiritual reality to undermine the message of God, but Joseph experienced steadfast love in the midst of the worst man could throw at him.
 - 3. GAVE HIM FAVOR
- C. Verse 22
 - 1. Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners who were in prison
 - a) There are prisoners who are not in prison...
 - b) Be set free
 - c) Joseph was in prison, but was he a prisoner?
 - (1) He was confined, but free
 - (2) He was limited, but had charge of everything
 - d) Being in prison and being a prisoner seems to be separated in thought and reality
 - 2. Though confined, He dwelt in the steadfast love and favor of God...He was free
- D. Verse 23:
 - 1. The Lord brought success
 - 2. God is ALWAYS at work

III. Points

- A. Steadfast Love
 - 1. No matter how difficult the current situation, when you are IN CHRIST you experience His steadfast love, His kindness and grace.
 - 2. While in prison, Joseph experienced the Steadfast Love of God
 - 3. Steadfast Love:
 - a) Is consistent
 - b) Is complete
 - c) Is continual
 - d) Is not influenced by circumstances
 - e) Steadfast Love is never changing

4. You may need to be reminded today that God Loves You and has a plan for your life
 5. That plan is to work through you to accomplish His will
 6. Today we will take the Lord's supper and be reminded of STEADFAST LOVE
- B. The Lord Made it Succeed
1. If prosperity was measured by circumstances, Joseph's circumstances were less than prosperous.
 - a) He owned nothing, but rather was owned by Potiphar
 - b) He didn't have freedom, but was free to serve
 - c) He was confined to prison, but the blessing of God was not confined by prison
 2. He was the most free person in that prison, because He was exactly where God needed him to be.
 - a) We will see in the next chapter that Joseph wished to be rescued, and acknowledged he had done nothing wrong
 - b) This is a form of Lament, yet his faith did not waiver.
 3. No matter your physical circumstances, being in the middle of God's plan is the only place to be.
- C. Christ Connection
1. Joseph, like Christ, ministered to those in prison
 - a) [1Pe 3:18-19 ESV] 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,
 - b) The prison of disbelief is seen in all humanity.
 2. Joseph, like Christ, had all authority
 - a) [Mat 28:18-20 ESV] 18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - b) [Phl 2:9-11 ESV] 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
 3. As we consider the Christ Connection in everything, we consider the Lord's supper
- IV. Close
- A. The Lord's Supper
- B. [1Co 11:23-29 ESV] 23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. 27 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.
- C. Why?
1. We are to take this supper together until He returns
 2. When He returns, we will no longer need the reminder, because we will be with Him.
 3. The work has been done, and will do its work in us.
- D. Let's consider the Lord's Supper:
1. The truth goes back to Abram and the King of Salem: Bread and wine on the mount of olives

2. We see the promise made in the Exodus
3. We see the reminder throughout generation of faithful followers
4. Today we are connected to everyone who has ever believed in Messiah
5. It is a symbol, but a sacred symbol
6. It is a reminder of the promise, and participation in the promise
7. It never gets old or loses its meaning
8. We connect, we submit, we declare