

The Shaping of a Man

“ The Test of Being Overlooked “

March 22, 2006

Genesis 40:23 “Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him.”

SUMMARY:

When Pharaoh’s butler was freed from prison, he forgot about Joseph, even though he had Joseph to thank for his freedom. It was two full years before Joseph had another opportunity to be free (Gen. 41:1) Yet, Joseph’s faith was deep and he would be ready when the next chance came.

When we feel passed by, overlooked, or forgotten, we shouldn’t be surprised that people are often ungrateful. In situations like this trust God as Joseph did. More opportunities may be waiting.

NOTES:

DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Recall a time when you were overlooked. Now complete the sentence: “I felt _____.”

Discussion:

- How did you handle the above situation?
- God wants to do great things in us, but what happens depends upon our being shaped by God. Look at Matthew 5:3-12 (The Beatitudes)– How has God shaped you?
- What would it take on your part to allow God to fashion your life into a masterpiece with His signature?

APPLICATION:

Joseph met God in the dreams of his youth, and when those dreams were finally fulfilled a young man was transformed into the humble leader of one of the most powerful kingdoms on earth. You could say that Joseph was forged in the fire of adversity as he was shaped by the master.

God used difficult circumstances in the life of Joseph to prepare him for what he wanted to do through him. He can do the same for us, but only when we relinquish control of our life and trust our self into His hands.

It does not matter if you are a person who is struggling to know God and how He wants to be a part of your life; a new Christian who is growing in your faith; a Christian who feels stuck in the events of life; or a Christian who has drifted from God’s purpose and allowed the fire in your heart to dwindle. **What will it take for you to relinquish control? In the next 24 hours write a prayer to God with your decision.**

ON YOUR OWN...

Matthew 5:3-12 Romans 8:28 1 Chronicles 29:12 Isaiah 40:21-24

We thank Phil Templin for presenting the lesson today.