

The Pit to the Presidency (Part 1)
Genesis 40

Structure of Genesis 40

- 40:1 Time passes
- 40:5 Two men dream
- 40:8a No one to interpret dreams
- 40:8b God owns dreams
- 40:9ff Two men tell dreams
- 40:12ff Joseph interprets dreams
- 40:14 Joseph suggests a plan
- 40:20 Interpretation proves true
- 40:23 Result

8 Joseph Observations

1. Joseph was still in _____.
2. Joseph _____.
3. Joseph showed _____.
4. Joseph had _____.
 - a. Joseph believes in _____.
 - b. Joseph believes _____ will give him the interpretation of the _____.
 - c. Joseph believes in his _____.
5. Joseph _____ the dreams.
6. Joseph used his _____.
7. Joseph lamented his _____.
8. Joseph was _____.

So What?

BIG IDEA 1: Joseph shows us how God's people can respond in suffering.

- If you are not in the pit, how are you preparing your faith?
- If you are in the pit, how can you lift your eyes to see the downcast faces of others?

BIG IDEA 2: Genesis 40 creates space for us to ask questions about enduring suffering.

- Did God, like the cupbearer, forget Joseph?
- What did Joseph do for two years?
- What do we do with suffering when we hate it?

We lament.

Lament is to mourn the death of your last hope, to cry out, to complain, to wrestle with the One who promises to be your only hope.

Michael Card

Complaint + Questions + Faith = Lament

Personally: Sickness, circumstance, sin

Corporately: Miscarriage, death of loved ones, broken marriages, hurting children, our weaknesses as a church

Socially: Unemployment, abortion, murder, abuse in all its forms

Lamenting with God's Word – Read Psalm 44.

- What is his complaint?
- What questions does he ask?
- How does he express his faith?
- Do you feel comfortable praying this way to God when you are in the pit?

Lamenting in Song

- *Blessed Be Your Name* by Matt Redman
- *When Peace Like a River* by Horatio Spafford/Philip Bliss,
- *Sweet Victory* by Trip Lee