

Gen 40:1 It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

40:2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

40:3 So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

40:4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

40:5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

40:6 And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.

40:7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

40:8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

40:9 Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,

40:10 "and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

40:11 "Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

40:12 And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.

40:13 "Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will put Pharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

40:14 "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

40:15 "For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

40:16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

40:17 "In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

40:18 So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are

three days.

40:19 "Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

40:20 Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

40:21 Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.

40:22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

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

From today's sermon.

I am in fact a kidnapper from the land of the Hebrews. And even here I did not do anything that would have landed me in an underground prison.

This is the cry of Joseph. He was thrown into a pit by his brothers, sold to a slave trader, and just when he was on the verge of success under Potephar, he was plunged again into an underground prison, into a low, low cave, again for a heinous crime. Why does this misfortune continue? Why is it that the clues to salvation, which had been so painstakingly worked out, are so fragilely taken away from us?

Why does his bizarre life go so wrong, from hole to hole, from low to low, and to despair? How many times has he cried in prison, remembering his kind father back home?

But it is here, in his prison of humiliation, in the prison cell connecting the king's prisoners, talking with the king's dignitaries, that he gets ready for his future. In that prison, Joseph hears of a dream from two people. And he said. Is it not by God that you are to be released? Please tell me.

Oddly enough, his life is guided by what he said, "Isn't the solution by God? There are many mysteries that we do not understand, but it is not up to us humans to solve them, but God does. God is the one who makes everything work together for the best.

Good morning everyone, it is finally warming up in March. The rain will continue until the middle of the week, and the cold will return a little over the weekend, but it will be nothing compared to the cold we have had in the past. It looks like the temperature will rise to 16 degrees today. This may be the time when the weather changes and the fatigue of enduring the cold of winter comes out. It may also be a time when you are troubled by pollen. Please

continue to take care of yourselves.

Today, we open the book of Genesis chapter 40. The story of Joseph continues.

He was abandoned by his brothers, picked up by a slave trader, sold, and imprisoned for a heinous crime under Potephar, an Egyptian who was an official and chief of the guard in Pharaoh, just as he was beginning to make a name for himself. He was imprisoned for a crime, and his prison was, according to today's scriptures, an "underground prison. And in a low place. How deeply discouraged he must have been to lose his chance to crawl out of the mire and be kicked back into the depths!

40:15 I am actually a kidnapper from the land of the Hebrews. And even here I did not do anything that would have landed me in an underground prison.

How disappointed and discouraged he must have been! Let us continue reading the Scriptures that are open to us today.

40:1 After these things the servants and the cooks of the king of Egypt sinned against their lord the king of Egypt.

40:2 Pharaoh was angry with the two officials, the chief waiter and the chief cook,

40:3 And he put them in the prison of the house of the chief of the bodyguards, in the prison to which Joseph was bound.

40:4 And the chief of the bodyguards commanded Joseph to be with them, and Joseph served them. Thus they spent some days in the place of confinement.

Joseph's fall again. But it was a prison cell connecting the king's prisoners. Even there, God had compassion on Joseph and was with him, near by, revealing to him His unmerited favor, grace, and God's truthfulness.

39:21 And the Lord was with Joseph, and had compassion on him, and gave him the grace of a jailer.

39:22 The jailer gave all the prisoners in the jail into Joseph's hands, and he did all that he did there.

39:23 And the jailer took no heed of that which was committed to his hand: for the LORD was with Joseph. For the Lord was with Joseph. And the LORD made his works prosperous.

He had the opportunity to listen and learn from the high officials of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, which would lead to his future success. He did not understand the language or culture, he did not know right from left, but he learned many things step by step. This is nothing short of God's mercy. How could he have known that the house of the Potiphar, where he was sold as a slave, and this underground prison where he fell into sin due to another painful experience, were a classroom for him, God's school?

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say to you. Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say to you, do not be troubled about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. For life is better than food, and the body is better than clothing.

6:26 Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow nor reap, neither do they put them in their storehouses. Yet your heavenly Father provides for them. 6:27 Are you not far better than they?

6:27 Who among you can prolong his life even a little because of a thought?

6:28 And why do ye trouble yourselves about your clothes? 6:28 And why do you worry about your clothes? They neither work nor spin.

6:29 But I say unto you, that even Solomon, when he was in the height of his glory, was not so clothed as one of these flowers.

6:30 For if God so dresses even the grass of the field, which today grows and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how can He not do you more good? O ye of little faith!

6:31 Therefore do not be troubled, saying, What shall I eat, or what shall I drink, or what shall I put on?

6:32 All these things the Gentiles long for. Your heavenly Father knows that all these things are necessary for you.

6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be yours. Then all these things will be given to you together.

6:34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow. 6:34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow itself will be anxious about itself. For one day's trouble is enough for one day.

40:4 And the captain of the guard commanded Joseph to be with them, and Joseph served them. Thus they spent some days in the prison.

40:5 Now the two servants and the cook of the king of Egypt, who were in prison, each had a meaningful dream during the night.

40:6 And when Joseph went to them in the morning, he saw that they were in sorrow.

40:7 Then Joseph asked the officials of Pharaoh, who were with him in the prison of his master's house, and said, "Why are you pale today?"

40:8 And they said, "We have had a dream, but there is no one to untie us." Joseph said to them, "Is it not by God that you are to be released? Please tell me.

Joseph was ordered by the chief chamberlain to serve two men, a waiter and a cook, who had been imprisoned for incurring the king's wrath. After spending a few days there, Joseph heard the story of a dream that each of them had one night.

We had a dream, but there is no one to solve it," Joseph said to them.

Joseph said to them, "Isn't it up to God to solve it? Please tell me about it.

He did not testify of the time of his dream on his own. As Joseph once told his family in a dream, it is God who speaks to us in dreams, and it is God who reveals the meaning of dreams. Joseph continued to believe in the God he believed in. He had faith that God knows everything far beyond what we can know, and that He is able to do wondrous works of His own.

40:9 The chief of the servants told Joseph about the dream, saying, "In a dream I had, there was a vine before me.

40:10 And there were three branches of the vine, and it budded, and flowered, and the bushes of grapes ripened.

40:11 And there was in my hand the cup of Pharaoh, and I took his grapes, and I squeezed them into his cup, and I offered the cup into his hand.

40:12 Joseph said, "The revelation is this. The three branches are three days.

40:13 In three days from now Pharaoh will lift up your head and return you to your former position. You will offer the cup into Pharaoh's hand, just as you did when you were serving him earlier.

It was a dream that revealed his good fortune, a dream that God had shown him. After explaining this, Joseph immediately asked the waiter.

40:14 Therefore, when you are happy, remember me, and be gracious to me, and tell Pharaoh about me, and deliver me from this house.

40:15 I am actually a kidnapper from the land of the Hebrews. And even here I did not do anything that would have put me in an underground prison.

40:15 I am, in fact, a snatched away from the land of the Hebrews, and here also I did not do

anything that would have put me in an underground prison. And even here I did not do anything that would have put me in an underground prison. He was always waiting for the hope of salvation, waiting with his eyes like saucers for the slightest chance. Now, informed by God that this servant will serve again before the king of Egypt, Joseph asks for the servant's intercession to help him be saved from this underground prison. Then he says, "I am actually a Hebrew. I am a man kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews. And even here I did not do anything that would have put me in an underground prison."

Joseph was kidnapped, sold, and even after coming to Egypt, he did not do anything reprehensible, and yet I am being held here for no reason. You have done nothing wrong, but you were put in here, so God will get you out of here. Please remember me, Joseph pleaded, when the suspicion of your false accusation is removed and you are in the midst of happiness, that I am suffering from the same feelings as you.

Unintentional suffering. Absurdity. En sin. Misunderstanding. I can't be blamed for it. I have worked hard all my life. But I lead a life of downfall. What a suffering this is! But we see here also the person of our Lord Jesus.

Isaiah 53:1 Who could believe what we have heard? To whom did the arm of the Lord appear?

Isaiah 53:2 He has grown up before the LORD like a young tree, like a root out of dry soil. He has no form for us to behold, no majesty, no beauty for us to admire.

53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men; he was a man of sorrows, and knew sickness. 53:4 And he was despised like one whose face is covered with abominations. 53:4 And we esteemed him not, neither did we respect him: for he was a man of sorrows, and knew sickness.

53:4 For indeed he bore our infirmities, and was our grief, and we thought, "What is this that he is doing? But we thought that he was smitten, that he was smitten of God, that he was afflicted.

53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, and crushed for our iniquities. 53:5 But he was chastened himself, and gave us peace; and by his wounds we are healed.

53:6 We have all gone our own way, lost as sheep: but the LORD hath not forgotten the iniquity of us all. 53:7 And the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all.

53:7 He was tormented and afflicted, but he opened not his mouth. 53:7 He was tormented and afflicted, but he did not open his mouth, like a lamb being led to the hovel, or like a sheep keeping silent before the shearers.

53:8 He was taken away by a tyrannical judgment. Who of his generation thought that he had been smitten for the transgression of my people, and had been cut off from the land of

the living?

53:9 Though he did no tyranny, and there was no lie in his mouth, yet his grave was with the wicked, and his mound with the evil-doers.

53:10 Moreover it was the LORD's will to crush him, and the LORD was troubled with him. When he makes himself an offering for the devil, he shall see his offspring, and his life shall be prolonged. And the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

53:11 He shall see light through the affliction of his soul, and shall be satisfied. 53:12 For by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, and shall bear their iniquities.

53:12 Therefore I will cause him to share with the great. He will share the prey with the strong. For he has poured out his soul even unto death, and has been numbered with the just. And he bore the sins of many, and made intercession for the just.

Philippians 2:1 If ye therefore have any exhortation through Christ, any encouragement of love, any fellowship of the Spirit, any fervent affection, any mercy,

2:2 Be ye of the same mind, and of the same love; be ye of one mind, and of one heart, and of one mind, and ye shall fill me with joy.

2:3 Do not do anything out of partisanship or vanity, but in humility of mind make one another better than yourselves.

2:4 Consider not yourselves only, but also others.

2:5 Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.

2:6 For though Christ was in the form of God, do not consider equality with God a thing to be adhered to; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect in the sight of God,

2:7 Instead, He humiliated Himself and took the form of a servant, taking the form of a man.

2:8 And he abased himself, and was not like unto man,

2:8 He humbled Himself, and was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

2:9 Therefore God exalted him, and gave him a name above every name.

2:10 For at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth,

2:11 And that every tongue might confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord," and return glory to God the Father.

This suffering of Joseph's absurdity will eventually lead to the salvation of many. This suffering of Jesus will lead to the salvation of all the people of the world.

40:21 That is, Pharaoh returned the chief waiter to his position as waiter, and he offered the

cup into Pharaoh's hand.

40:22 But Pharaoh hung the chief cook on a tree. As Joseph had revealed to them.

40:23 But the chief cook did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Joseph's suffering continues, but the time is getting closer every day. For him, "I am, in fact, the one who has been kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews. And even here I did not do anything that would have put me in an underground prison." The conundrum of life's anguish, mystery, and absurdity is about to be solved.

Obliviously, it is just as he said.

40:8 They said, "We have dreamed a dream, but there is no one to solve it. Joseph said to them, "Is it not by God that you are to be untied? Go ahead, tell me about it.

The mysteries of life, the difficulties, the absurdities, the unexplained suffering, the questions of why, the cries of why, the anger and tears, the difficulties that we cannot understand or solve even though we think about them and worry about them. But these are not ours to solve; it is God's to solve. Let us also believe that this prison-like place of life is God's classroom and school, and with faith that I am learning here, without anxiety, without disappointment, without despair, and with faith in the Lord's mercy and grace, let us boldly go forward to the tomorrow that the Lord is leading us to. Let us boldly go forward into the tomorrow that the Lord is leading us to.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Then all these things will be given to you together.

6:34 Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow. 6:34 Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow itself will be anxious about itself. For one day's trouble is enough for one day.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for today's worship.

We are deeply moved by his sorrowful cry, "I have done nothing to be put in prison. Neither with my brothers nor in the house of Potiphar. Why then am I always cast down to the lowest place? I think of Jesus' sorrow. I think of Jesus' pain for us, who tasted the pain of absurdity and was crucified. God reveals to us the mysteries, the troubles, the absurdities, the unacceptable, the anger, and the tears. I believe that God will lead us to the best. Please guide all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.