

Never Alone

“And the Lord was with Joseph (Gen. 39:2)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution. A person is present wherever his presence is truly felt. You can't change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future.

Joseph had become the second highest ruler in Egypt. He attained this place of prominence by a difficult road of loneliness and injustice. His brothers, hating him intensely, sold him into slavery, and he was taken to Egypt. Separated from family and friends, he must have been lonely and homesick. But “the Lord was with Joseph.”

Through a series of events over which he had no control, he was imprisoned. Who would consider taking educational courses in prison? Yet Joseph's imprisonment was a training period for God's future plan for him.

He learned patience while in prison. Authority given him over the prisoners developed his leadership ability. This was preparation for him later when he directed food distribution during a severe famine.

Joseph may have questioned why his brothers mistreated him; why he was sold to slavery; why he was imprisoned on a charge of which he was innocent. Yet he didn't let his prison experience embitter him. Although he didn't understand it, nor could he see what the future held, he was aware of God's presence with him in prison.

Today you may be in prison. Perhaps you are misunderstood by your family. Or you may be far way from home, and lonely. Whatever your prison experience, humanly speaking, there may be no way out, no immediate solution. What is your reaction? Are you rebellious? Are you questioning God?

God knows the lessons we need to learn, lessons of patience, submission, and self-denial. Our faith may need strengthening. We may be so concerned that God remove us from prison that we miss the lessons He has for us in prison.

Our prison term may seem long, but the God who was with Joseph when he was taken into Egypt, and the God who was with him when he was put in prison, is the God who is with us today. He has promised, **“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5).**