

# **From Bitter to Better: Choosing to Forgive**

Lesson 2

Genesis 39:21-41:1

July 26, 2020

## **Life Should Be Fair**

### **Introduction**

When we think of a train, the engine is the part that propels the whole locomotor. If not fueled, or if not functioning, the train will go nowhere. The rest of the train relies on the engine to give it life, to reach its destination, and to be strong enough to carry some massive loads. The engine would be the facts of our faith, the things we know to be sure about God and humanity.

The next car would be our faith. Faith is the coal car that fuels the engine. This car represents our response when presented with the facts about God. We choose to either go our own way or to trust in the reliance on the facts about God. This car is necessary for the success of the entire unit too.

The third car in our analogy is the caboose, the feelings car. It would be useless to try and pull the train with the caboose (feelings). This is not to say that God did not give us these feelings, and often uses them to remind us of His presence (peace, joy, etc.), but left alone, emotions can often lie to us and lead us away from a loving savior who longs to teach us things during our trials and hardships. Feelings can tell us that a “loving” God wouldn’t let us continue in our pain or make us grieve the loss of a loved one. When these feelings take root, we can rely on the fact (the engine of the train) that we know God has a purpose and has everything under control.

***Memory verse: “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”—  
Ephesians 4:32***

Pray then read Genesis 39:21-41:1. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

**What does the passage say?**

1. While the Lord was with Joseph, what mercies did He show Joseph? (Genesis 39:21)
2. What responsibilities did the warden give to Joseph? (Genesis 39:22)
3. Why did the warden pay no attention to anything under Joseph's care? (Genesis 39:23)
4. Who was it that offended the king of Egypt? (Genesis 40:1)
5. To whom were the chief cupbearer and the chief baker assigned? (Genesis 40:4)
6. To what do the three branches in the dream refer? (Genesis 40:12-13)

7. What were the fates of the cupbearer and the baker?  
(Genesis 40:20-22)

### **What do the passages mean?**

1. Joseph was tempted, then put in jail for his alleged crime, yet God made way for his honor to be restored. How is this like how Jesus was tempted? (Matthew 4:1-4, 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46)
2. How is Joseph's manner, similar to Paul and Silas when they were put in chains? (Acts 16:22-34)
3. Joseph recalled the dream he had while with his family. What promises (facts) was Joseph relying on when his feelings were being put to the test? (Genesis 37:5-9)

4. Several times, the author wrote, “the Lord was with Joseph.” What difference did this make for Joseph’s circumstances? (Deuteronomy 31:8-9; Isaiah 41:10) If Joseph was poorly treated in prison and had not found favor with the guard, would that mean that the Lord was not with Joseph? Why or why not? (Acts 7:54-60)

### **Applying the passages**

1. How can you be a blessing to others while still struggling in manners similar to Joseph?

