

## IMPRISONED AND FORGOTTEN

PASTOR TIMOTHY GREEN

Joseph spends 13 years as a prisoner and as a slave. All for a crime that he didn't commit. Does that sound fair? Where was God during this time? The Bible says, "But the Lord was with Joseph."

Just because we sometimes find ourselves in prison, suffering unjustly, being mistreated by others, does not mean that God has forsaken or forgotten us.

Isa 49:14-16 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

False accusations put Joseph in prison, but it was the Lord who stayed near him and nurtured his soul while he was there.

Whenever a dungeon experience comes, the quickest and easiest response is to feel that you've been forgotten by God.

I remember reading a Ziggy cartoon that showed Ziggy with his big nose and bald head, standing on a mountain and staring into the heavens. The sky was dark and there was one lonely cloud above him. Ziggy yells, "Have I been put on hold for the rest of my life?"

Have you ever felt like Ziggy? "Lord, what are you waiting on? Are you going to do something about my situation or not?"

Joseph didn't deserve jail but he responded beautifully to it. He was imprisoned and forgotten, but he did not become bitter and resentful. He maintained his relationship with God and as a result, God used him in a strategic way.

Instead of wasting our time focusing on the wrong, we need to spend our time focusing on the One who can right all wrongs and bring good out of every bad situation.

In the trials of life, we must learn to trust in a God who's ways are above our ways and His thoughts past finding out.

Instead of focusing on the why, we need to focus on the Who!

We might be imprisoned and forgotten by men, but God knows exactly where we are at and exactly what is going on in our lives.

Don't become bitter. Let God make you better.