

Sunday, September 27, 2026

Joseph: The Palace

Genesis 42-26

- I believe one of the greatest phrases in the Bible is two words. "BUT GOD." Because I don't know about you, but I have had some pretty big BUT GOD moments in my life.
- If you're not familiar with my story, I didn't follow God whenever I was in high school. I grew up in a Christian household with great Christian parents and I believed in God, I knew all of the stories, but I didn't really know Him.
 - So in turn I just lived however I wanted to live. And by the time I was in high school I was just your typical American teenage pothead. All I did was play ball and smoke weed.
 - I was living a life that God could forgive, but He couldn't bless.
- And I remember my 18th birthday being the most depressing day of my life. I didn't realize why at the time but now looking back I know it was because I wasn't allowing Jesus to be Lord of my life.
- But I kind of brushed that off and kept doing my thing until I eventually got arrested for possession and it took spending the night in an actual prison to realize that something needed to change.
 - And the only agent of change that I could think of was the person of Jesus.
 - So I was determined that I was going to find out what it really meant to follow Jesus, to find out what the Christian life was really all about.
 - And I'm not really sure how it happened, I can't give you a 10 step process of how to make this happen, all I know is that I went from a pothead to a pastor and the only explanation I have is BUT GOD.

- This is Why Ephesians 2, that we left last week off with— is so near and dear to my heart
- *Because I was making a mess of my life...*
But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, -Ephesians 2:4-6 (ESV)
- I wish I could tell you that it gets easier, I wish I could tell you that after you have that one big “But God” moment and you give your life to Him, all of the sudden the hardships and the trials and the storms of life cease
 - I wish I could tell you that but I cant. Sometimes even the opposite seems to be true. Sometimes when you come into a relationship with Jesus Christ, life can seem to get even more difficult, you start facing more opposition
- But I would like to appeal to you, really through this entire series— that the hardships of life might actually be a catalyst for the greatest blessings in your life
- The fun thing about being a Christian is that its not just one big “But God” moment at salvation—its a series of “But God” moments where He is continually showing you grace and mercy and pulling you up and pulling you through and showing His faithfulness on a continual basis
 - And we’re going to see that after all that Joseph has been through—through the pit, the prison, and everything in between—at the end of it all, all he could say is “But God.”
- *So—to give us a recap thus far, we saw in Genesis chapter 37, that Joseph was overtly favored by his father and his brothers hated him because of it.*
 - *He was pretty spoiled, arrogant and annoying, but God still had a big call and plan for his life. But he wasn’t going to be*

able to live out that calling until he was first broken of himself and humbled before God

- *One day, he goes out to check on his brothers and they decide to beat him up, throw him into a pit, sell him into slavery and fake his death*

- *But instead of the Pit breaking him, it built him up...and in the next scene of his life he was closer to God than he had ever been*

- *He gets sold a slave in Potiphar's house, who was a high ranking Egyptian official—and the Lord blessed all that Joseph did so much that Potiphar put him in charge of his entire estate*

- *Then Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him, but he maintained his character and integrity and refused her and ran away from her—and all that got him was being falsely accused and sent to prison*

- *But the Lord was still with him, he maintained his character and integrity —and just like in Potiphar's house the jailer sees so much*

good in Joseph that he puts Joseph in charge of everything in the prison

- *While in the prison he meets 2 guys who have confusing dreams, and Joseph interprets their dreams, everything he predicts comes to pass, and the one was supposed to put in a good word for Joseph to help him get out of prison— but he forgot!*

- *2 years later, Pharaoh the King of Egypt has a dream he needs interpreted, then they remember Joseph—Joseph then interprets the dream, let's Pharaoh know that a famine will be coming and gives his suggestions for how they should prepare for it*

- *Pharaoh is so impressed with Joseph that he makes him 2nd in command over all of Egypt*

- *And we pick up the story in Genesis chapter 41 —*

- ***“Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the***

presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt. During the seven plentiful years the earth produced abundantly, and he gathered up all the food of these seven years, which occurred in the land of Egypt, and put the food in the cities. He put in every city the food from the fields around it. And Joseph stored up grain in great abundance, like the sand of the sea, until he ceased to measure it, for it could not be measured.” -Genesis 41:46-49 (ESV)

- *Joseph has finally made it!* He had a dream of people bowing down to him, 13 years later he finds himself in the palace. He’s got a family now, he’s succeeding in everything he does
 - Then, 7 years later—Once the famine hits, he’s got people from all over the known world at the time, coming to him to get some help
- And two years into the famine, one day a group of guys come in bow down before him,

and when they stand up...*they don’t recognize him...oh but he recognizes them*

- ***“Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.” And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.” -Genesis 42:6-8 (ESV)***
- **YOU MAY RECOGNIZE YOUR PAST, BUT YOUR PAST DOESN’T HAVE TO RECOGNIZE YOU**
- Let me explain: I love it when people find out about my past and my testimony and they don’t believe me—or never would have guessed

- Or like the story I've told before when I ran into someone I went to high school with and he just asked me "What happened to you...."
- And I got to tell him all about how Jesus changed my life
- *I recently got to go see my old roommate from Shelby, his name is Micah. And it has now been 10 years since we first lived together.*
- *I somehow, had the wherewithal to buy a house as a single—25 year old—floppy haired youth pastor back in 2016.*
 - *I remember struggling if I wanted to spend 100 grand and have a \$550 dollar mortgage on a 3 bed 2 bath 1500 sq ft house with a fenced in back yard*
- *But I pulled the trigger and I didn't want to live alone—I had just been in a rental house the previous 2 years living by myself and it was the most miserable I had ever been in my life—I hate living alone, I hate being alone*
- *And there was a guy who had come to work at the physical therapy clinic that I had worked at as a tech— he had been to our church a few times and was recently out of Rehab*
- *He had been in the military, his wife abruptly left him, he got strung out on hard drugs and had lived on the streets at rock bottom for years until he finally called his dad and told him he was ready for help, and got checked into Teen Challenge.*
 - *He graduated from the program after being there a year and a half or so and then moved to Shelby where his dad and brother were — to restart his life essentially.*
 - *So I asked him if he wanted to move in with me—and he did. And I never had any hesitation about it. I could see that he was truly chasing after Jesus, and he had a direction that he was trying to go career wise*
 - *So he lived with me for 3 years until I got married and Rachel kicked him out*

- *But while we lived together he used his GI-Bill benefits to get his degree from Gardner-Webb in exercise science and then went to Asheville and completed all of the schooling he needed to to become a physical therapist*
 - *He and a buddy have started their own practice now, he's really good at what he does, he is remarried to an incredible woman and they just had their first baby girl a couple a weeks ago*
- *And the amazing thing is, if any of you were to ever meet him—you would never, EVER be able to guess that he used to be a drug addict*
 - *If I were to tell you, you wouldn't believe me! If he were in this room, you wouldn't be able to tell who I was talking about*
 - *Because God has done such a redeeming work in his life that his past unrecognizable*
- You can get to the point where you can see different people living the way you used to live, but they couldn't imagine you ever living that way
- When God gets in your life and takes over— He changes something in you, you start walking different, you start talking different, you start thinking different, you start interacting with people different, you start loving people different
- Then people look at your life, and those who knew you back then might think you're being fake— but they just don't understand, and then the people who didn't know you back then wouldn't even imagine you used to have the same struggles
- *The point of that is to give people hope....*
 - You may be at the point where you are just trying to make that change in your life, and you desperately want people to know that you're not that person anymore
 - What you need to know is that, that was never who you were to begin with...you are not your sins, you are not your past, you are not your mistakes,

- You are who God says you are— and you may have been living in sin, but that's not who you are anymore
 - When you come to Christ, you may still be struggling—but your struggles do not define you, the redeeming Blood of Jesus defines you
 - Paul clearly says if anyone is in Christ they are a New Creation.
 - Psalm 103 says: ***“as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” -Psalm 103:12 (ESV)***
 - In reality, we're all just as far removed from our past and our sin as any one else is
 - When God forgives, He forgives completely
 - When God heals, He heals completely
 - When He loves, He loves completely
 - But even when we know this and understand this, there will still be times when we come face to face with our past again
- Joseph has got to be feeling a flood of emotions
 - Man, he has been thriving in the new life that the Lord has built for him. He's helping people from all over the world, he has a healthy family. everything is going so good!
 - And then his past shows up at his doorstep. All of the hurt, the rejection, the pain, the embarrassment, the sheer utter shame and injustice that he suffered through and worked past —was thrown in his face once again.
 - Can you imagine what kind of feelings he has swirling around his stomach, his chest, and his head??
 - How does his mind not flash back to being beat up, stripped down, kicked in the face, thrown naked into a pit—lying naked and cold at the bottom of a pit begging and screaming for his brothers while they laughed at him and discuss killing him....
 - He thought he was past his past, but now these Hebrews come in to the palace, bow

down, and when they stand up he sees that it's his brothers, the same guys who threw him in the pit, sold him into slavery, and separated him from his father.

- ***“And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them.” -Genesis 42:9 (ESV)***

- He remembers the dreams that he had whenever he was 17, of his brothers sheaves bowing down to his sheaf in the field, and the 11 stars that bowed down to him
- And now 10 of his brothers are before him... bowing,

- *Now the dream has become a reality— but this might be the greatest test of them all...how do you act whenever you've actually made it?*

- *How do you act whenever you were actually right? You proved the doubters wrong, you've beat the odds, you've made more of your life than you ever thought you would*

- *How you handle success, I think —will say just as much about your character as how you handle yourself in failure*
- *Do you become egotistical, proud, and arrogant— looking down on all of those who doubted you or came against you? Or who don't live up to your new standards?*
- *Or do you stay humble, still serve people, still count others more significant than yourself?*

- Now Joseph hasn't seen his brothers now in about 20 years— and no matter how far removed you may be from the past pain and hurt, even 20 years later it can still mess with your head

- Joseph goes through a rollercoaster:

- *He decides to talk to them through a translator rather than the Hebrew language which of course he knew*
- *He asks them who they are and where they are from— They explain that they had come from the land of Canaan to buy food*

- Joseph says: “No, I don’t believe you....you’re spies”
- They says, “Nooo, we promise...we’re all brothers, we have another brother back home and one brother’s not with us anymore!”
- Joseph says, “Nope, your spies...he has them put in custody for 3 days”
 - And when I read this, I’m thinking, “Good! They deserve it!”
- But after 3 days, Joseph comes to them and says “I’m gonna arrest you, and probably kill you—unless you prove that you are honest men by bringing your little brother here”
 - “Here’s what I’ll do...I’ll keep one of you here in custody, and then rest of you go and bring back your little brother and then I’ll believe you’re telling the truth”
 - So he had Simeon bound up and placed in the prison
- Now we can think “Joseph..why??” BECAUSE HE DOESN’T KNOW HOW TO FEEL RIGHT

NOW! He wants to see his little brother, so thats what he’s going for...

- They agree and then they start talking among themselves... ***“Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.” They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them. Then they loaded their***

donkeys with their grain and departed.”

-Genesis 42:21-26 (ESV)

- Soooo, these guys sold you into slavery and you're giving them a bunch of food and money??
- But Joseph may be starting to sense that these guys may have changed over the past 20 years.
 - Maybe they really are sorry for what they had did to him all of those years ago—or maybe they are just worried about they have brought a bad omen on themselves, and it's not really about Joseph
 - But Joseph is going to give them a chance
- Then they stopped for the night on the way back home—and one of them pulls out his money bag to budget out the next couple days... ***“He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!” At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another,***

saying, “What is this that God has done to us?” -Genesis 42:28 (ESV)

- I've noticed that people tend to freak out when they're blessed for no reason. They're very skeptical
- Especially whenever you bless someone who has been bad to you...
- But it reminds me of what Paul said to the Romans—
- ***“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.” -Romans 12:19-20 (NLT)***
 - These guys don't even know they've been talking to Joseph...but they're feeling the heat

- They get back, tell Jacob what has happened

- The Jacob starts freakin out...he tells them that they are robbing him of his children!— Joseph's gone, now Simeon is gone, and now you wanna take Benjamin from me?!
- Rueben says, "Dad we'll bring him back— look if we don't bring Benjamin back, you can kill my two sons"
 - *Again, You think you're family has problems, read the OT....*
- Jacob doubles down and says "NO, you're not taking him!"
- So they all stay home...while Simeon remains in custody back in Egypt —that is until they run out of the food that Joseph gave them.
- The famine is getting worse— so Jacob tells his sons to go back to Egypt to buy a little more food...but they tell him that they cannot go back without Benjamin!

- Jacob tries to argue with them but Judah convinces him that they would make sure that Benjamin is safe.

- So they make they're way back to Egypt with Benjamin, They pull up to Joseph's house, go inside and verse 26 says:
 - ***"When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground. And he inquired about their welfare and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves. And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered***

his chamber and wept there.” -Genesis 43:26-30 (ESV)

- I don't blame him...if I never thought I was going to see my brother again and then I do—I'd be a mess too!
 - But he regains his composure, throws some water on his face...then comes back out to them and says some of the best 3 words known to man: “SERVE THE FOOD”
 - And they have themselves a good-ole fashioned Egyptian Baptist potluck
- After all these guys have done to him...he's giving them food, money, and parties?!
 - His dream of them bowing down has come true, he holds all the power and all the cards now, he can get anything he wants. He can get his revenge, he can take all their money, he can destroy them for what they did to him
- But again, how Joseph handles himself in the palace is going to say just as much about his

character as how he handled himself in the pit and the prison

- Even so, he is still working through his emotions and trying to figure out what to do.
- Then in chapter 44 we see that when they were going to head back home with all of the food and supplies and all of their money back once again—Joseph tells his steward to put his silver cup into Benjamin's sack.
- Now, why would he do that?
 - He could still be working through his emotions and just doing strange things
 - But I think Joseph is an extremely smart and intelligent man
 - I think he is a compassionate and generous man and I think that he wants to reveal himself to his brothers and welcome them
 - But I think he is smart enough to not let them back in too quickly

- You see, many of us have had very toxic, hurtful, and negative people and influences in our lives in the past
 - And we as Christians are called to forgive, right?
 - Yes we are—but we're not called to be stupid
 - And many manipulative people that you need out of your life will try and use Christian principles against you—to weasel their way back into your life and to continue to cause you chaos or take advantage of you
- Now, Joseph is in a high position—he could care for his brothers, but his brothers could still be those same evil individuals that threw him into the pit and profited off of his abandonment
- Or, they could have grown—and changed
 - And he needs to know—so he has this silver cup placed into Benjamin's sack. And then sends officers out to search them and to arrest whoever stole the cup from him
 - And then when they find the silver cup among Benjamin's stuff they take him into custody and now Joseph is going to be able to see if they really have changed or not.
 - Would they care at all about Benjamin? Or would they hate him as they did Joseph for being a son of Rachel?
 - But Judah and his brothers—go seek out Joseph on Benjamin's behalf and he throws himself at Joseph's mercy
- **GOD CAN BRING THE BEST OUT OF THE WORST**
 - You see, Judah, was the one who's idea it was to sell Joseph into slavery
 - Judah was the one who had him sold for 20 pieces of silver and did it behind Reuben's back so he couldn't be stopped
 - Judah was the ringleader behind all of the evil that was done against Joseph—it could easily be argued that he was the worst of all of the brothers

- But now, we see him being the one stepping up for Benjamin
- For 18 verses, Judah gives Joseph this impassioned speech about why they need their little brother to come home
- And then he concludes his speech with ***“Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father.” -Genesis 44:33-34 (ESV)***
 - 20 years ago, Judah wasn’t thinking about his father and the effect that losing Joseph would have on him
 - 20 years ago, he didn’t care about anything that happened to his brother
 - But now he is too worried about the welfare of his brother and his father that he is willing to give himself up into slavery—put himself in the situation that he put Joseph in 20 years ago
- We’re seeing the best character coming out of the brother who arguably used to be the worst of all of the brothers
- *But not only that—God would bring the absolute best through Judah, since because he survived this famine, he would go on to have a very long family line.*
 - *And 10 generations after Judah, his family line produced King David—the best King that Israel would ever have*
 - *But even more importantly, 27 generations after David would come the Savior of the world, in Jesus Christ Who was a direct descendant of Judah*
 - *From the worst—came the Best*
- It doesn’t matter how much evil that you have ever done in your life—if you are willing to humble yourself before God, He can produce the best in your life that can benefit people

through your life, and make a lasting impact beyond your life that can effect future generations

- But now, Joseph has seen everything that he needs to see from his brothers and he can't keep it together anymore!
- Chapter 45 starts with saying:
- ***“Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.” -Genesis 45: 1-4 (ESV)***

- There is more power in Joseph's identity than he even realizes
 - No matter what Joseph has ever been through, his identity has never changed. From the very beginning, his true identity was determined by God—whether he recognized it or not
- You see, **Joseph's** name means : **Jehovah has added**
 - Joseph lived out that identity through the most difficult times.
 - He was in the pit, but the pit didn't break him, it built him, and God added to his life
 - He was in Potiphar's house as a slave, but God gave him favor, and added to his life
 - He was falsely accused and sent to prison and had to wait, but he was able to grow, and God added to his life
 - Then when he finds himself in the palace—with seemingly everything in the world—and the Lord still finds a way to add to his life

- We need to understand this very important and fundamental value
- **MY IDENTITY IS NOT DICTATED BY WHAT I DO, WHAT I DO IS DICTATED BY MY IDENTITY**
- Whenever I know who I am, as a child of God, my circumstances do not change the way I live
 - You throw me in the pit, you may lock me in a prison, or even put me in a palace—but if I know who I am, the way I live doesn't have to change
 - I can still build people up around me, I can see every obstacle as an opportunity, and even when I come face to face with my past, pain, and hurt I can see the bigger picture that God is working something through my life to benefit of all the people around me
- Whatever position that the Lord puts you in, is not about what you can get...it's always about what you can give
- *That's what the calling of God in your life will always be all about— it's not about obtaining power, position, or privilege...it's about pouring into other people*
- *God blesses you for the benefit of other people—If your dream is all about you, your dream is too small*
- Joseph understood that there was a much bigger picture here
 - His dream wasn't about the power, wealth, and having people bow down to him. It was about God doing something through his life that would save hundred of thousands, if not MILLIONS of lives!
 - His brothers may have intended that pit for evil but God used it for so much good!
- Just like God told his great-grandfather, all of the nations of the world were being blessed because of what God was doing through Joseph

- So Joseph looks at his brothers—looks at his betrayers and rejectors and says:
 - ***“And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God.”***
-Genesis 45: 5-8 (ESV)
 - Whenever you have a Kingdom perspective and allow your life to be focused on living for God’s purpose...it’s impossible not to see His Hand in everything
 - God has a purpose for your life. That purpose is to Love God and Love People
- But He also has a platform He wants to give you...and that the dream He wants to put on your heart
 - It may not be 2nd in command over all the land...but whatever it is, He wants to use you to preserve life as well.
 - He wants to use you to bring people into His Kingdom
 - He wants to use you to bring people to know the truest and greatest love that’s ever been known
 - He wants to use you to bring heaven to earth
- In whatever capacity He wants to use you to do that, He will begin to show you—and you will face tests and trials and hardships, but God will use all of that to work something so much greater in you than you could ever imagine
 - And then whenever you look at where you are after the pits and the prisons of life, you

can't help but be thankful for them...because without them you wouldn't be where you are!

- You look over your life and the only explanation you have is BUT GOD!
- Joseph understood there was something so much bigger than him going on here
- Instead of focusing on the hurt he had experienced, he focused on God's faithfulness throughout...even when faced with his brother's he could be thinking:
 - *"Yea, you guys threw me into the pit and sold me as a slave... But GOD used that to lead me to Potiphar's house, where I gained invaluable experience working in a high ranking Egyptian officials household*
 - *"Yea, I was falsely accused and sent to prison...But GOD used that to allow me to meet the cupbearer,"*
 - *"And yea he may have forgotten me for 2 years, But GOD still used him to put me in*

front of pharaoh...who allowed me to help all of these people!"

- *Joseph was not only able to save thousands and thousands of people from death in the famine—but he also was able to save his entire family line from certain death because he was thrown in a pit, sold into slavery, and thrown into prison*
 - *All of that— led to him being able to save the people of Israel, even the very ones who betrayed him*
- Even further than that, Joseph may not have understood this at the time
- But the story of Joseph, isn't just about the story of Joseph.
 - It wasn't about his brothers bowing down to him. It was so much bigger than that.
 - God didn't just save and preserve Joseph, he used Joseph to save and preserve His people, the nation of Israel, by bringing them through a famine...So God could one day,

through this group of people, bring salvation to ALL people from the famine that sin and death had produced.

- Jesus was the True and Greater Joseph
- Joseph was favored by his father and his brothers hated him for it
 - Jesus was favored by His Father and the world hated Him for it
- Joseph was sold by his brothers for silver
 - Jesus was sold by his disciple for silver
- Joseph was wrongly accused and sent to prison
 - Jesus was wrongly accused and sent to the grave
- Joseph was faithful and came out of prison and was given all power and authority in Egypt
 - Jesus was faithful on the cross and came out of the grave and was given all power and authority in Heaven and on Earth

- Joseph may have sat down at the right hand of Pharaoh
 - BUT JESUS sat down at the right hand of the Father
- Just like Joseph, Jesus would look his betrayers in the face, and He would provide for them, comfort them, and welcome them into the palace.—I know that, because I was one of his betrayers. My sin put Him on the cross.
- ***“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved [ME], even when [I WAS] dead in [MY] trespasses, [HE] made [ME] alive together with Christ— By GRACE [I] have been saved —[And now ALL of us, when we accept this great love] HE raises us up with Him and [seats] us with Him in the heavenly places ...” -Ephesians 2:4-6***
- It does not matter how deep of a pit you’ve been thrown in —or how long that sin, that

addiction, that depression, anxiety, shame, or guilt has kept you in a prison

- Your identity in Christ as a Child of God who now stands faultless and blameless before the throne—now dictates how you live your life.
- This is the truth that will lift the head of the weary—and humble the heart of the proud
- If you are broken and weary and worn down by life—the truth of your identity in Christ can lift your head knowing that no matter how low you may feel in this life, you as a child of God are spiritual royalty and you can live out this life that way
- You do not have to live according to your circumstances, you can go ahead and live as if you are walking in the higher calling that God has for your life
- If you are living the dream, and you have more than you could ever ask or imagine—this truth

will keep you humble knowing that everything you have is only thanks to Him and you can count it all as garbage compared to the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord

- You may be in a Pit —BUT GOD can build you in it
- You may be in a Prison- BUT GOD can prove you through it
- You may be in the Palace—BUT GOD gets all the Glory for it.