

SERMON TEXT

"Pruning in the Pit"

Genesis 39:20–40:23

²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³ The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

40 Some time after this, the cupbearer of the king of Egypt and his baker committed an offense against their lord the king of Egypt. ² And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, ³ and he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined. ⁴ The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.

⁵ And one night they both dreamed—the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison—each his own dream, and each dream with its own interpretation. ⁶ When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. ⁷ So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, "Why are your faces downcast today?" ⁸ They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Please tell them to me."

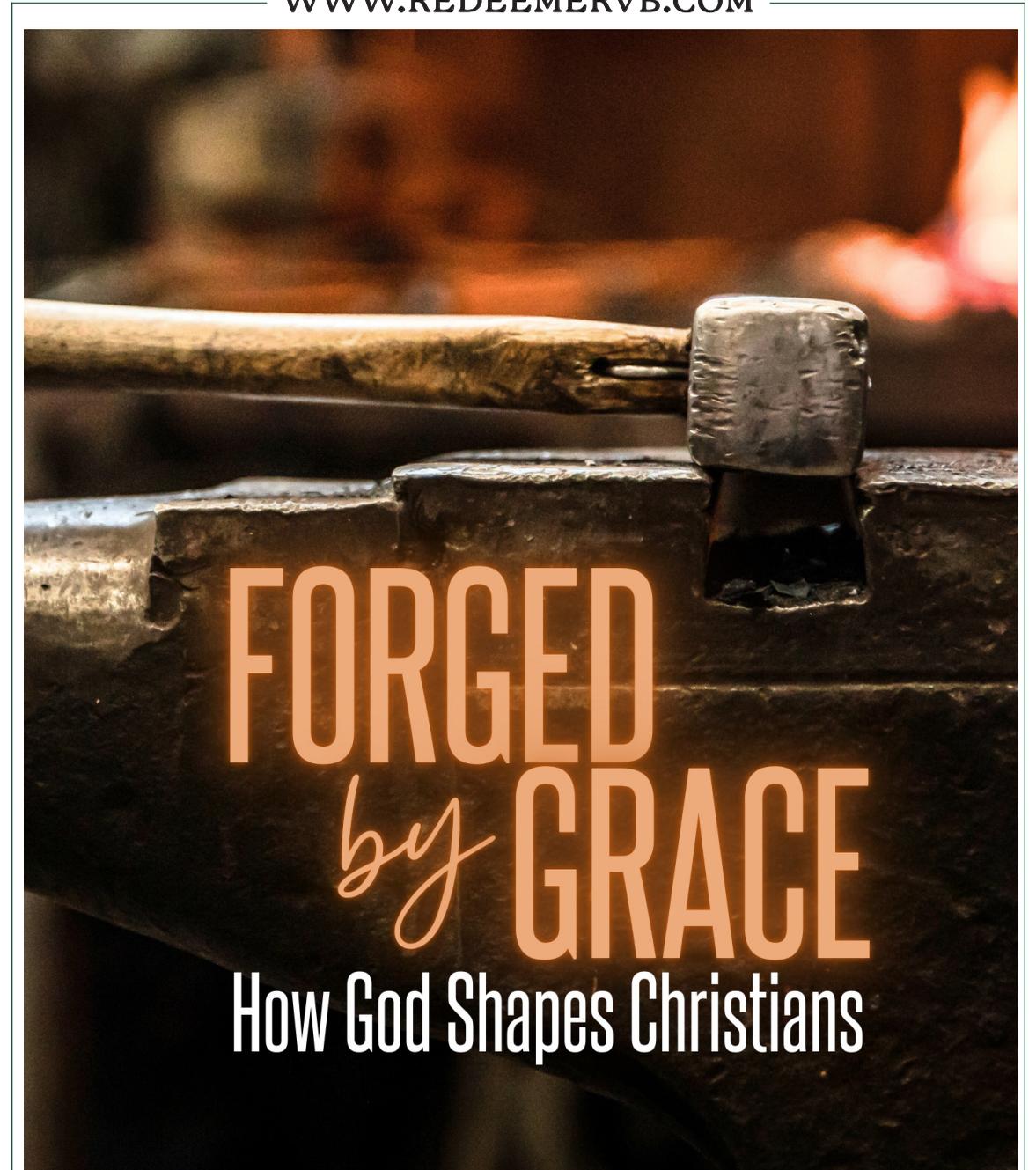
⁹ So the chief cupbearer told his dream to Joseph and said to him, "In my dream there

was a vine before me, ¹⁰ and on the vine there were three branches. As soon as it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and the clusters ripened into grapes. ¹¹ 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." ¹² Then Joseph said to him, "This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. ¹³ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh's cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. ¹⁴ Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. ¹⁵ For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit."

¹⁶ When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was favorable, he said to Joseph, "I also had a dream: there were three cake baskets on my head, ¹⁷ and in the uppermost basket there were all sorts of baked food for Pharaoh, but the birds were eating it out of the basket on my head." ¹⁸ And Joseph answered and said, "This is its interpretation: the three baskets are three days. ¹⁹ In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head—from you!—and hang you on a tree. And the birds will eat the flesh from you."

²⁰ On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants. ²¹ He restored the chief cupbearer to his position, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand. ²² But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them. ²³ Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

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MEDITATION

A husband who is 85% faithful to his wife is not faithful at all. There is no such thing as part-time loyalty to Jesus Christ.

– *Anonymous*

The world defines success in terms of what a person possesses, controls, or accomplishes. God defines success in terms of faithful obedience to His will.

– *Ken Sande*

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear us O Lord, we call upon Your name today,
*Shine your light upon us and give us
Your grace!*

Give us life, O Lord, as we reach out to You.
*Let Your face shine upon us O Lord God
of hosts!*

Help us to never turn away from You,
*That we may rejoice in Your salvation!
Amen!*

Based on Psalm 80

PRAYER OF ADORATION

WORSHIP IN SONG

CATECHISM

Q16: Did all mankind fall in Adam's first disobedience?

Since the covenant was made not only for Adam but also for his natural descendants, all mankind sinned in him and fell with him in his first disobedience.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be

anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4–9

CONFESSION

Father, you have commanded me to repent and believe your gospel, and enter into your rest. But I have not faithfully entrusted myself to you. Instead, I have chosen my own way and the deceitfulness of sin. So I have used your gifts for my glory. I have been selfish and fearful in my relationships. I have sought comfort in idols and satisfaction in my flesh. And I have selectively heeded your call to love those around me. Forgive me, Lord, for refusing to believe that what you have for me is better than what I can make for myself.

GRACE

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

SONG OF GRACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discipleship Cove kids (Little Cove: Pre-K–1st grade; Big Cove: 2nd–5th grade) are dismissed. Nursery is available on the first floor on the other side of the building.

Offering plates are available in the front lobby. We invite you to place your tithes and offerings as you exit the service.

SERMON

*Sermon Series: Forged by Grace
"Pruning in the Pit"*

Genesis 39:20–40:23

PASTOR CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

BENEDICTION

PRAYERS OF MEDITATION

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith.

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