

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #21-03 (January 20, 2021)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 377 & 383 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 105:16~25
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*The Way Not Fancy*)
 1. We understand “Joseph” as “the man who became the governor of Egypt” when we read the Bible. The reason for that is that Joseph was described as a “savior” who was good and outstanding figure who kept his faith in God, saved Egypt out of 7-year great famine, as well as nearby countries out of hunger and starvation. Joseph in whatever sense is a hero of Israel. When we consider him as a hero, there is something crucial which is not to be overlooked: the way that he went through. That is the consideration on how he became the governor of Egypt, how he saved Egypt and nearby countries, and how he saved his family. Because of his heroic and glorious feature and our desire to look at only that kind of feature from him, we might want to omit the way to become the governor of Egypt.
 2. In this text, we meet with God who emphasizes that way. When we read the part that God sent Joseph to Egypt in order to prepare him as a savior, we can see that emphasis. In verse 17, we can see “Joseph, who was sold as a slave.” Joseph, who became a “slave,” is unlikely the man whom God “had sent a man ahead of them,” as a savior in God’s plan of grandeur. Joseph was a perfect “slave” and his “feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron” (v.18), until the time when God set in terms of “until what he had said came to pass” (v.19). Then, he was “released” (v.20) and became “lord” of the house of Pharaoh, “the ruler of the peoples” and ruled over “all his possession” (v.21). Joseph became a powerful ruler who rule over all “at his pleasure” (v.22). Finally, he called his father, Jacob, Israel, and his whole family to Egypt (v.23) in order to save them out of “famine” (v.16). Then, they settled down in Egypt in power and became more powerful than the Egyptians (vv.24~25).
 3. The emphasis of God here is not Joseph the governor but Joseph the “slave” who was sold to Egypt. For that reason, God uses the specific word here. His way was a redemptive way at the same time a painful way. The redemptive way is not done easily but done painfully and difficultly.
 4. In addition, that way was intended to show the way of Jesus Christ (death and resurrection) who came to earth about 1500 years later, in order to fulfill the salvation for His people. That way was not fancy, shabby, collapsed, torn down, weakest step. Therefore, for his way, Isaiah, the prophet described Jesus Christ “no beauty that we should desire him” (Isa. 53:2). But, through His way, we, the people of God, were saved. Of course, as Joseph became the governor of Egypt, so became Jesus the Savior after His death and resurrection.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
 1. The not fancy way should be continued through us who were saved in Christ. The reason why it is not fancy is that even though it is not delightful way, our way to go, with thankful heart to Christ, is painful.
 2. Are you thankful and delightful that you became people who should walk the “not fancy way” as the Israelites who were saved by getting into Egypt? Do you have thankful heart to Jesus who saved us?
 3. Why don’t we pray together to rely on Jesus that when we walk the not fancy way of Christians to share the redemptive grace of Jesus, we experience and assure enough reasons for that way?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.