

Psalm 105:18 (NLT2)

They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar.

Today's verse is referring to Joseph, you know the one who was betrayed by his eleven brothers, falsely accused by his boss' wife of attempted rape, thrown in prison for a crime he did not do, and was released and became second in command under Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

So, Joseph was thrown into prison, for a crime he did not commit. And we know that and read of how he was so faithful while in prison, and that he was put in charge of all the men in the prison because he was faithful to the Lord.

† **Genesis 39:22-23 (NLT2)** *Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.*

And we read that and think how awesome Joseph was to be in prison, falsely accused and still being a man of integrity, and was given such a high honor. But have you ever thought about what the Psalmist says that he went through while in prison? Look at today's verse in the Message bible.

† **Psalm 105:18 (MSG)** *They put cruel chains on his ankles, an iron collar around his neck.*

We have all seen the movies of men in these prisons with shackles around their ankles and an iron band around their neck. When we think of that, we tend to forget that they were not fur lined or padded shackles that felt good, but they rubbed the skin raw to the point of blistering, raw flesh being exposed, and pain, lots of pain. Yet we don't think about that, all we really focus on is that.

† **Genesis 41:42-43** *Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, "Bow the knee!" So he set him over all the land of Egypt.*

We read this account in Genesis, and praise Joseph for what he became because of his relationship and faithfulness to God, and we want to be like Joseph, just not the one mentioned in the Psalms, "*They put cruel chains on his ankles, an iron collar around his neck.*"

I wrote a song titled, "**I wanna look like Jesus**" and one of the verses goes like this.

*People say they want to be like Jesus,
With all the wonders and miracles He performed.*

*People say they want to be like Jesus,
Just not like when He wore the crown of thorns.*

We even see those who have great ministries and think how we want to be like them. Yet we do not realize all the things that they went through before they got to that point in their ministry that it is now flourishing. We just see the end results, just like we love the end results of Joseph, but we don't want to have to go through what he did to get there.

But we complain when we go through struggles. But what if we stopped complaining and turned those complaints into Praise, realizing God may be doing something in our lives to prepare us for what He wants to do to bring Him glory. Just like God did with Joseph, or your pastor, or your favorite worship group, or someone you look up to as a spiritual leader in your life.

Someday, one of these maybe you, but it won't happen if all you do is complain about the storm, instead of looking to the one walking with you through the storm, JESUS, who wants to do even greater things through you in the future.

- † **Luke 16:10 (NLT2)** *If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.*
- † **John 14:12** *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*
- † **Hebrews 6:9-10** *But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*