

“The Life of Joseph (Pt. 2)” Gen. 39-47

Open: Review

- The Prodigy. Gen 37:1-17
- The Pit. Gen. 37:18-35
- The House of Potiphar. Gen. 37:36 & 39:1-19

Tran: Story

- Joseph once again finds favor with man; in this case, the jailor, and is placed into a position of leadership. **Gen. 39:21-23**
- Joseph not only earns the trust of the warden, but he also earns the trust of the inmates. The baker and the butler both come to Joseph with troublesome dreams. **Gen. 40**
 - It was revealed to the butler that he would be restored to his place of service, and it is revealed to the baker that his life would be taken.
 - Joseph does not develop a bad attitude nor slack in his duties when it becomes obvious that the butler did not remember to keep his promise to Joseph.
- Joseph faithfully serves in prison with a good attitude; and because of his faithfulness, when he is needed, Joseph is prepared to be used by God. **Gen. 41**
 - Joseph was called upon by the Pharaoh to interpret his dream – It is important to note the character of Joseph to make himself presentable. **vs. 14**
 - Joseph could have used this opportunity to “finally” gain some recognition for his services; but he remains humble and gives God the glory. **vs. 16**
 - Joseph’s wisdom was effective in influencing the king, only because of the correct attitude and spirit found in Joseph. **vs. 38**
 - Joseph’s faithfulness is rewarded, by God, when he is placed second in command. **vs. 41**
 - Joseph was 17 years old (**chapter 37**) when he was sold into slavery. We now find him thirteen years later at the age of 30 (**chapter 41**) beginning to enjoy the blessings his faithfulness.
- Joseph after approximately 15 years comes face to face with his brothers and through a “cat and mouse” series of events eventually reveals himself to his brothers. **Gen. 42-45:8**
 - This reunion and the attitude of Joseph’s heart can be best described by **Gen. 45:5-8**. Joseph does not get respond angrily, but in an attitude of understanding that God allowed those events to take place.
- Joseph calls for his family to move to Egypt where they would be provided for. **Gen. 45:9-47**
 - It is interesting to note that Israel (Jacob) does not go down to Egypt without God’s blessings.
- After Israel’s (Jacob’s) death, Joseph’s brothers fear that Joseph will exact his vengeance; but Joseph reassures them that he has forgiven them and that he understands that he is in the place of God. **Gen. 50:1-21**
- Joseph lives in Egypt until his death at the age of 110, and like his father, had his dying wish is to be dug up and carried out of Egypt when God moves them. **Gen. 50:22-26**

I. The Prison.

- Joseph did not transfer his faith from God's promises to man's reasoning. **Heb. 11:1-3** *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] For by it the elders obtained a good report. [3] Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*
- a. Joseph was placed by a man in prison unjustly; but God was with Joseph. **Gen 39:20-21**
 - i. God had a plan, and He was working His plan in Joseph's life.
 - ii. God's plans would not have mattered, if Joseph would not have yielded to them.
- b. Joseph's character allowed him to be blessed even in the worst of situations. **Gen. 39:22-23**
 - i. Joseph did not allow the circumstances to dictate his actions.
 - ii. Joseph did not allow the treatment of others to determine his attitude.
 - iii. Joseph did not allow a delay in the fulfilment of Gods blessings to deter his ambitions.
- c. Man broke his promise to Joseph; but Joseph remained true to who he was because he trusted in God's ability to fulfill his promises. **Gen. 40:14,23; 41:1**
 - i. Joseph did not get bitter at God.
 - ii. Joseph did not get angry at God.
 - iii. Joseph did not get forget God's promise. He remained patient.

II. The Palace.

- God kept Joseph in the right place until the right opportunity came along that would allow Joseph's character to be revealed in the greatest possible way. **Heb. 10:22-23** *"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. [23] Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;"*
- a. Once again, Joseph's genuineness paid off in an unexpected way at an unexpected time. **Gen 41:8-13**
 - i. The butler remembered Joseph, because of Joseph's character.
 - ii. The butler was willing to refer Joseph, because of Joseph's character.
- b. Joseph took pride in who he was. **Gen. 41: 14-15**
 - i. Joseph had enough respect for himself and the authority to look his best.
 - ii. The King sees Joseph's character and then proceeds to ask his help.
 - You may have the best character, but if you look like a slob, you will not get far.
- c. Joseph did not take it out on those who had mistreated him. **Gen 41:15-16**
 - i. Joseph did not take it out on the butler.
 - ii. Joseph did not have a bad attitude towards Potiphar.
 - iii. Joseph was not disrespectful to the king.
- d. Joseph made sure everyone knew who it was that prospered him. **Gen 41:16**
 - i. Joseph's humility made it possible for those of a greater position to seek Joseph's help.
 - ii. God lifted Joseph up because Joseph humbled himself before God.
 - 1. **James 4:6b** *"... God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."*
 - 2. **James 4:10** *"Humble yourselves in the sight of God, and he shall lift you up."*

III. The Place of God.

- Joseph did not seek to gain what God told him was his by his own methods, he remained obedient and allowed God to deliver His promises in His time. **Ps. 75:6-10** *“For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south [7] But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another. [8] For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them. [9] But I will declare for ever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. [10] All the horns of the wicked also will I cut off; but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.”*
- a. The Promise fulfilled. **Gen. 41:38-41**
 - i. In Gen. 37 we find Joseph was 17 years old. Not until Joseph was approximately 30 do we find Joseph standing before the king. **Gen. 41:46**
 - ii. Joseph would have never been at the place of God if he had left and set off to try to fulfill God’s promises his own way.
 - iii. Many never see God’s promises fulfilled in their life, because they set off to get God’s results their own way. **Gal. 6:7-9** *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. [8] For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. [9] And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*
- b. The Provision of Life. **Gen. 45:4-8**
 - i. We may not enjoy the process of getting the point of being used; but there is not greater satisfaction of watching God use you to help someone, because you remained faithful.
 - ii. Joseph saw the reason for all his difficulty was to pave a way of providing for the next generation.
- c. The Peace that comes from forgiveness. **Gen. 50:18-20**
 - i. Joseph lived a life of peace in God’s will because he trusted God.
 - ii. Joseph’s brothers lived their lives in constant worry all the way until the death of Joseph.

Close:

- **Joseph’s life shows us that you can make the hard choice and do right.**
- Joseph’s life was not easy, but his life was rewarding because he allowed God to work His plan in his life.
- Joseph’s life shows us that doing right is always right and that doing right will always work out in the end.

Rom. 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

1. What was the name of Rachel’s only two children? **Joseph & Benjamin**
2. What did Jacob make as a sign of his love for Joseph? **A coat of many colors**
3. Where did Joseph’s brothers decide to put Joseph instead of killing him? **A pit.**
4. To whom did Joseph get sold after he was sold as a slave? **Potiphar**
5. Where was Joseph placed after being accused of wrongdoing? **Prison**
6. Where did God promote Joseph to living because of his faithfulness? **The palace**
7. Joseph found himself satisfied in the **??????** of God because he trusted the promises of God. **Place**
8. Joseph’s life shows us you can make the hard choice and do **??????** **Right**