"JOSEPH - A MAN FAITHFUL TO GOD"

Genesis 37 - 50

4/14/10

INTRODUCTION:

***Joseph was faithful to God!**

I. Joseph was faithful through
THE TEST OF ADVERSITY
(Genesis 37:1-5, 23-28; 39:1, 19-20; Acts 7)

A. He was scorned by his brothers (37:4-5, 8)

B. He was sold by his brothers (37:28)

C. He was subjugated by his owner (39:1, 19-20)

II. Joseph was faithful through
THE TEST OF ALLUREMENT
(Gen. 39:1-12)

This test was:

A. Seductive (v. 7)

B. Continual (v. 10)

C. Convenient (v. 11)

III. Joseph was faithful through
THE TEST OF ADVANCEMENT
(Gen. 41:38-44)

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People deal with other people in one of three ways: There are those who:



1) Beat others up (ex. thieves)

2) Pass others up (ex. scribe & pharisees)

3) Help others up (ex. Good Samaritan)

C. He was subjugated by his owner (39:1, 19-20)

Adversity is God's way of:
1. Getting our attention (Ps. 119:67; Ps. 119:71)
2. Showing us His love (Heb. 12:1ff)
3. Conquering our pride
4. Showing our weakness and God's might (II Cor. 12)
5. Purifying our faith (I Pet. 1:6-7)
6. Preparing us to minister to others (II Cor. 1:3-5)
7. Motivating us to cry out to Him (Ps. 34:17)
*8. Accomplishing God's will (Gen. 50:20)

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This test was:

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Factors in Joseph's victory over sin:

Joseph was:

1. Courageous to say no (Gen. 39:8)
2. Loyal to God - Gen. 39:8-9
3. Shocked at sin - Gen. 39:9
4. One who avoided the presence of evil (Gen. 39:10)
5. Quick to flee temptation

III. ***Joseph was faithful through*** **THE TEST OF ADVANCEMENT (Gen. 41:38-44)**

Joseph had:

The king's authority (v. 40-42a)
The king's dignity (v. 42b) - his vesture
The king's royalty (v. 42c) - a gold chain
The king's glory (v. 43) - second chariot
The king's loyalty (v. 44)

Thirteen years of trials are suddenly rewarded.

17 years old - SOLD (Gen. 37)

27 years old - TEMPTED

30 years old - EXALTED (41:46)



In exaltation, Joseph may have had to battle two temptations:

A. ARROGANCY (pride)

B. ANIMOSITY (revenge)

CONCLUSION:

In adversity -He responded with charity; He refused to despise his enemies
In allurement -He responded with purity; He refused to defile his body
In advancement -He responded with humility; He refused to destroy others

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***Joseph was faithful to God!**

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A. He was _____ by his brothers (37:4-5, 8)

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People deal with other people in one of three ways: There are those who:



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1. Getting our _____ (Ps. 119:67; Ps. 119:71)
2. Showing us His _____ (Heb. 12:1ff)
3. Conquering our _____
4. Showing our _____ and _____ (II Cor. 12)
5. _____ our_____ (I Pet. 1:6-7)
6. _____ us to _____ (II Cor. 1:3-5)
7. _____ us to _____ to Him (Ps. 34:17)

*8. Accomplishing _____ (Gen. 50:20)

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This test was:

A. _____ (v. 7)

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Factors in Joseph's victory over sin:

Joseph was:

1. _____ to say _____ (Gen. 39:8)
2. _____ to God - Gen. 39:8-9
3. _____ at sin - Gen. 39:9
4. One who _____ the presence of evil (Gen. 39:10)
5. _____ to flee temptation

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Joseph had:

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The king's _____ (v. 44)

Thirteen years of trials are suddenly rewarded.

17 years old - _____ (Gen. 37)

27 years old – _____ (Gen. 39)

30 years old - _____ (41:46)



In exaltation, Joseph may have had to battle two temptations:

A. _____ (pride)

B. _____ (revenge)

CONCLUSION:

In adversity -He responded with _____; He refused to despise his enemies
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INTRODUCTION:

One feature that adequately characterizes the man Joseph is faithfulness.

Faithfulness through trials (SEE Psalm 105:17-21)

Joseph's afflictions as remembered by Stephen - Acts 7:9-10.

The occasion for Joseph's tests - the word of the Lord (his dreams).

From God's perspective, these words were a test (Ps. 105:19). From Satan's perspective, this promise (word) was a challenge to thwart; and he used Joseph's brothers to attempt such.

NOTE: Outline adapted from a series of three taped messages by Pastor Doug McLachlan 12/3/84 - 12/5/84. Bible Dept. Chairman of Northland Baptist Bible College.

***Joseph was faithful to God!**

I. Joseph was faithful through
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(Genesis 37:1-5, 23-28; 39:1, 19-20; Acts 7)

A. He was scorned by his brothers (37:4-5, 8)

Joseph should not have been scorned (hated) for revealing his dreams; because they were from God.

It's a hard thing to be hated for announcing the truth!

B. He was sold by his brothers (37:28)

Joseph (Acts 7:9), Daniel (Dan. 6:1-4), and Jesus (Mt. 27:18; Mk. 15:10) were betrayed because of envy.

Jesus, like Joseph, was also sold for 30 pieces of silver (Mt. 26:15; 27:3-9).

His brothers are sitting down and enjoying a meal (v. 25), listening to the pleading and crying of Joseph (Gen. 42:21), and with heartlessness they sell their own brother into the hands of pagans.

People deal with other people in one of three ways: There are those who:

1) Beat others up (ex. thieves)

2) Pass others up (ex. scribe & pharisees)

3) Help others up (ex. Good Samaritan)

C. He was subjugated by his owner (39:1, 19-20)

What is adversity?

It's irresolvable -
If it were humanly solvable, we wouldn't need God.

It's multiple -
"When it rains, it pours"

It's incomprehensible
We don't always know why.
Faith is obeying God even though the outcome looks bleak.

It's painful (not harmful)
Heb. 12 - Chastening is grievous (painful)

It's beneficial
There is a good purpose.

Lam. 3:27 - "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."
It produces patience (Godly character) (Rom. 8; Jam. 1:1ff)

What are God's purposes for affliction or adversity?

Adversity is God's way of:

1. Getting our attention

   Ps. 119:67 - "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."

   Ps. 119:71 - "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."

2. Showing us His love

   Heb. 12:1ff

3. Conquering our pride

   When God detects pride, He sends adversity to humble us.

4. Showing our weakness and God's might

   II Cor. 12 - Paul's thorn

5. Purifying our faith

   I Pet. 1:6-7 - "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

   Adversity demonstrates the futility of trusting anything but Christ. it removes us from false trusts.

6. Preparing us to minister to others

(II Cor. 1:3-5)

7. Motivating us to cry out to Him

Ps. 34:17 - "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

*8. Accomplishing God's will

Gen. 50:20 - "...God meant it for good."

Before advancement comes adversity. Before a kingdom comes a cross.

Before honor comes humility . . . prosperity comes poverty . . . joy comes sorrow . . . exaltation comes humiliation.

Joseph had a faithful and uncomplaining spirit in the midst of the most difficult moments.

That dungeon became Joseph's subterranean passageway to the throne of Egypt.

God's plan to exaltation is always through the fires of trial and humility.

II. Joseph was faithful through
THE TEST OF <u>ALLUREMENT</u>
(Gen. 39:1-12)

V. 1-5

NOTE: The continual references to God's blessing on Joseph. Everything he did turned to gold! It prospered.

What kind of man prospers? Ps. 1:3 Josh. 1:8

V. 6

"Goodly ... well-favored" = handsome

Joseph is now 27 years old, at the peak of his masculinity. The temptation would have been real.

This test was:

A. Seductive (v. 7)

B. Continual (v. 10)

C. Convenient (v. 11)

Everything we do, we do before the eyes of God.

Prov. 15:3 - "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

There may have been no man in the house, but God was there!
It's amazing to see what people will do in the presence of God only - that they would never do in the presence of men.

The reality of God to you can be measured by that which you would be willing to do with only God watching. If He is real to you, there are some things you could never do.

Factors in Joseph's victory over sin:

Joseph was:

1. Courageous to say no (Gen. 39:8)

2. Loyal to God - Gen. 39:8-9

   . . . And God's institution of marriage

   A mark of character is loyalty.

   Loyalty = to adopt God's wishes and will and make it your own.

3. Shocked at sin - Gen. 39:9

   "This great wickedness"

   He was so morally sensitive to sin.

4. One who avoided the presence of evil (Gen. 39:10)

   Pornography, suggestive TV programs, sensual music, etc., must all be avoided.

5. Quick to flee temptation

   To linger and dally with temptation is always to fall, because in a battle between the imagination and will, the imagination always wins, and the fallen will always gives in.

II Tim. 2:22 - "Flee youthful lusts"

I Cor. 10:13 - God always makes a way out

Factors in David's fall into sin:

1. Liberty - David took liberties with God's Word

   II Sam. 5:13 - He was weakened in character

   Dt. 17:17 - kings were not to multiply wives to themselves.

2. Luxury - II Sam. 12:1-2 0 is characterized as being very affluent.

   His temptation struck at a time when he had it all.

   Prosperity is not a vice, and poverty is not a virtue; but prosperity is a test. It can warp our values.

3. Lethargy - II Sam. 11:1-2

   David was at the wrong place at the wrong time.

Gen. 39:13ff

Joseph might have wondered: Does Godliness really pay?

In a fallen world, it costs to do right.

It costs a great deal to do right, but it costs a great deal more to do wrong.

III. Joseph was faithful through
THE TEST OF ADVANCEMENT
(Gen. 41:38-44)

Now Joseph could put the pieces of the puzzle together. Now he saw how God fulfilled his dream.

Thirteen years of trials are suddenly rewarded.

17 years old - SOLD (Gen. 37)

27 years old - TEMPTED

30 years old - EXALTED (41:46)

Joseph became the most powerful and influential man in the world (next to Pharaoh).

Joseph had:

The king's authority (v. 40-42a) - his ring (used in sealing & authorizing documents)

The king's dignity (v. 42b) - his vesture

The king's royalty (v. 42c) - a gold chain

The king's glory (v. 43) - second chariot

The king's loyalty (v. 44)

Not everyone can handle success, prestige, and prosperity.

How did Joseph handle success, power?

In exaltation, Joseph may have had to battle two temptations:

1) Arrogancy (pride)
Pride = total preoccupation with yourself

2) Animosity

A. ARROGANCY (pride)

To be victorious over arrogancy, Joseph had the quality of: MEEKNESS (The meek inherit the earth - Mt. 5:5; Joseph did!)

Meekness = power under control; an ability to be gentle when you have the occasion and power to destroy.

Joseph gave the glory to God (Gen. 45:8-9)

Some tests of pride:

1. How do you respond to constructive criticism?

2. Am I capable of learning from others?

3. Can I admit my mistakes?

. . . Or do I cover them over?
Prov. 28:13

4. Do I make it my business to serve others or do I expect them to serve me?

5. How do I respond to the success of other people?

6. How do I respond to others' failures? Am I inwardly glad because it makes me look better? Or do I inwardly glee?

A second possible temptation for Joseph, after being exalted to such power, would be:

B. ANIMOSITY (revenge)

Joseph could have evened a couple of scores:

--Potiphor and his wife (Can you imagine what they thought when they heard that Joseph had come to power?)

--his brothers

Joseph had the authority under Pharaoh to even "bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom." (Ps. 105:22)

(Joseph had power to execute judgment and power to legislate law)

To be victorious over animosity, Joseph had the quality of forgiveness (he forgave his brothers; and saw God's greater purpose through their evil intentions (Gen. 45:5-7; 50:20).

CONCLUSION:

In adversity -He responded with charity
He refused to despise his enemies

In allurement -He responded with purity
He refused to defile his body

In advancement -He responded with humility
He refused to destroy others