

JOURNEY TO EGYPT

GENESIS 37:1-10

Text:

Introduction:

Everyone faces crisis times in their lives. Often it comes in the form of unexpected turns....

Note—I believe most people would want to say what the Apostle Paul said at the end of his life:

2 Timothy 4:6-7

⁶ For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. ⁷ I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Joseph was a man who suffered and yet he remained faithful to God. In many ways he was like the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joseph was rejected by his brothers – So was the Lord

Joseph was loved by his father – So was the Lord

Joseph was victorious over temptation – So was the Lord

Joseph was taken into custody because of a false witness – So was the Lord

Joseph suffered from doing what was right – So did the Lord

Joseph was promoted from prison to rule the nation – The Lord rules the nations

Today I want us to consider Joseph and how his faith grew when his relationships failed.

No matter how he tried to do right, things turned negative.

Notice Joseph's journey for God.

1. A JOURNEY OF FAITH

Genesis 37:1-5

¹ And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. ² These *are* the generations of Jacob. Joseph, *being* seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours. ⁴ And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. ⁵ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told *it* his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

Note – Faith is trusting God's plan.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Note Joseph had faith to:

A. Receive God's Revelation

Illustration

Joseph's dreams

Dreams in ancient times were much attended to; and hence, the dream of Joseph, though he was but a mere boy, engaged the serious consideration of his family.

It takes faith to believe for one's entire life the commandments of the Word of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

¹³ For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

B. Recite God's Revelation

Genesis 37:6-8

⁶ And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: ⁷ For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold,

your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.
⁸ And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us?
or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him
yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

Remember this was not Joseph's dream but rather it
was God's – Joseph just recited it.

Notice not only was this a Journey of Faith but also:

2. A JOURNEY OF FAITHFULNESS

Note:

1 Corinthians 4:2

² Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found
faithful.

Joseph could have quit many times.

When he was betrayed by his brothers

When he was unjustly accused in Egypt

Genesis 39:7-9

⁷ And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast
her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. ⁸ But he refused,
and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not
what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he
hath to my hand; ⁹ *There is* none greater in this house than I;
neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because
thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and
sin against God?

Note:

Joseph was willing to lose a coveted position in the world in order to maintain his integrity.

- Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce Joseph.
- Joseph was faithful to God

Quotes:

Joseph lost his coat, but he kept his character.

Character isn't created in a crisis; it only comes to light then.

- He was imprisoned for his faith

Genesis 39:20

²⁰ And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the prison.

- God's mercy sustained him

Genesis 39:21

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

- The Lord was with him

Genesis 39:23

²³ The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

Proverbs 16:7

⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Philippians 1:6

⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

Not only do we see that this was a journey of faith, and faithfulness, notice lastly that this was a:

3. JOURNEY OF FORGIVENESS

According to Joseph's original dream, his brethren had come to him for help.

They came for food in Egypt twice. The first time is in Genesis 42:7.

Genesis 42:7

⁷ And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.

Joseph recognized his brothers at once; but they could not recognize a brother who had not been seen for 20 years, and who, moreover, had not only become

thoroughly Egyptianized, but had risen to be a great lord. And he acted as a foreigner.

He kept Simeon and sent them on their way with instructions to bring Benjamin.

Then, they came again a second time.

He forgave his brothers

Genesis 45:1-5

¹ Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. ² And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. ³ And Joseph said unto his brethren, I *am* Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. ⁴ And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I *am* Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. ⁵ Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Illustration:

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was reminded one day of a vicious deed that someone had done to her years before. But she acted as if she had never even heard of the incident. "Don't you remember it?" her friend asked. "No," came Barton's reply, "I distinctly remember forgetting it."

- He shows the grace of God – vs. 5

The first time his brothers came, he placed their money back in the sacks.

Genesis 42:25

²⁵ Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.

- He shows the purpose of God – vs. 7

Genesis 45:7

⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

He focused on the Lord

Note:

After Jacob died, the brothers thought Joseph would take revenge on them.

Genesis 50:20-21

²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive. ²¹ Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

He saw a heavenly perspective – vs. 20

He met an earthly need – vs. 21

Close:

Joseph's journey to Egypt was an unplanned journey, but it was all according to God's plan!

Though we may not choose the path remember God has a purpose.