



# A SPIRIT OF GRATEFULNESS

A few thoughts on Joseph's Career

# JOSEPH'S BEGINNINGS

- [Gen 37:2 NKJV] This [is] the history of Jacob. Joseph, [being] seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad [was] with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father.
- [Gen 37:3 NKJV] Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he [was] the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of [many] colors.
- [Gen 37:4 NKJV] But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Joseph did what was right; because of that was hated by his brothers

# JOSEPH'S DREAMS

- [Gen 37:7 NKJV] "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."
- [Gen 37:9 NKJV] Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

- Hated by his brothers

# JOSEPH SENT OUT AGAIN

- [Gen 37:12 NKJV] Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.
- [Gen 37:13 NKJV] And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding [the flock] in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."
- [Gen 37:14 NKJV] Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

- Hated by his brothers

Joseph does the right thing; he was obedient to his father despite knowing he would be hated by his brothers

# JOSEPH MEETS A RANDOM GUY

- [Gen 37:15 NKJV] Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"
- [Gen 37:16 NKJV] So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding [their flocks]."
- [Gen 37:17 NKJV] And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

- Hated by his brothers

- *Joseph remains obedient*

# JOSEPH'S BROTHERS PLOT

- [Gen 37:18 NKJV] Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.
- [Gen 37:19 NKJV] Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!
- [Gen 37:20 NKJV] "Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"
- [Gen 37:21 NKJV] But Reuben heard [it], and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."
- [Gen 37:22 NKJV] And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, [but] cast him into this pit which [is] in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"--that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*

Joseph's brothers attempt fratricide

# JOSEPH SOLD

- [Gen 37:26 NKJV] So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit [is there] if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"
- [Gen 37:27 NKJV] "Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he [is] our brother [and] our flesh." And his brothers listened.
- [Gen 37:28 NKJV] Then Midianite traders passed by; so [the brothers] pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty [shekels] of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.
- [Gen 37:29 NKJV] Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph [was] not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*
  - *Joseph to be killed*

Joseph is sold into Slavery

# JOSEPH PROSPERS

- [Gen 39:1 NKJV] Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.
- [Gen 39:2 NKJV] The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
- [Gen 39:3 NKJV] And his master saw that the LORD [was] with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.
- [Gen 39:4 NKJV] So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all [that] he had he put under his authority.
- [Gen 39:5 NKJV] So it was, from the time [that] he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*
  - *Joseph to be killed*
- Joseph, a slave

# JOSEPH FALSELY ACCUSED

- [Gen 39:7 NKJV] And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."
- [Gen 39:9 NKJV] "[There is] no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you [are] his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"
- [Gen 39:17 NKJV] Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;
- [Gen 39:18 NKJV] "so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*
  - *Joseph to be killed*
- Joseph, a slave

Joseph does the right thing; he was rewarded by being falsely accused and thrown in jail

# JOSEPH IN JAIL

- [Gen 39:21 NKJV] But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.
- [Gen 39:22 NKJV] And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who [were] in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.
- [Gen 40:14 NKJV] "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.
- [Gen 40:23 NKJV] Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*
  - *Joseph to be killed*
- Joseph, a slave
  - *Joseph flees from sin*
  - *Joseph, in jail*
- Joseph, a prisoner

Joseph works faithfully in jail; he was rewarded by being forgotten

# JOSEPH WAS FAITHFUL IN THE 'NOW'

- Joseph remained faithful when the immediate future was unknown to him
  - When his brothers hated him
  - When he was a slave just arrived at Potiphar's house
  - When he was tempted with opportunity – I will not sin against **God**
    - It was God who prospered him
  - When he was forgotten by the butler

# JOSEPH MEETS HIS BROTHERS

- [Gen 45:3 NKJV] Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I [am] Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.
- [Gen 45:4 NKJV] And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I [am] Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.
- [Gen 45:5 NKJV] "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.
- [Gen 45:8 NKJV] "So now [it was] not you [who] sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

**A spirit of gratefulness? How?**

- Hated by his brothers
  - *Joseph remains obedient*
  - *Joseph to be killed*
- Joseph, a slave
  - *Joseph flees from sin*
  - *Joseph, in jail*
- Joseph, a prisoner
  - *Joseph is faithful in adversity*
  - *Joseph is forgotten*

# GOD WAS FAITHFUL IN THE LONG TERM

- [Gen 37:15 NKJV] Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"
  - What would have happened if that man had not found him?
  - What would have happened if that man had not overheard the brothers?
- [Gen 37:29 NKJV] Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph [was] not in the pit; and he tore his clothes.
  - What would have happened if the Ishmaelites had not come along?
- [Gen 40:23 NKJV] Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.
  - What would have happened if the butler remembered Joseph as soon as he got out?
- Joseph recognized God's hand on him for the past 13 years and was grateful for it

# LEAD A LIFE OF GRATEFULNESS

- Look back on the things that have gone before and find strength for what is today
  - Be grateful for what the Lord has done thus far
- Love thy brother as thyself
  - Be grateful for the love God has given you when you were unlovable
- Look back on your life and see God's work that led you to today