**THE FAITH OF JOSEPH (part 1)**

Sold into slavery (age 17) (**Genesis 37, specifically verses 2, 28 & 36**)

**Can you even imagine this happening to you? Sold by his brothers!**

In Potiphar’s house (11 years) (**Genesis 39:1-6**)

***When we are put into a situation that we do not like or that comes about because of the decision of others, do we make the best of the situation like Joseph?*** Joseph was sold into slavery and now in Potiphar’s house as an indentured servant **(Proverbs 3:5-6, Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24)**

The Temptation of Potiphar’s wife (**Genesis 39:7-18, specifically verse 10**)

***Do we handle temptations appropriately? Do we run away when we are faced with temptation?*** Not staying as close to it as we can or flirting with it; but rather fleeing it completely, like Joseph **(James 1:12-15, 1 Corinthians 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:22)?**

In prison (2 years) (**Genesis 39:19-40:23, specifically verses 39:21-23, 40:1-3, 14-15, 23**)

***When going through severe trials do we maintain our faith in God?*** Joseph is in prison for two years for something he was completely innocent of. It would be easy to be depressed because of how unfairly he was treated and focus only on himself. However, he maintains His faith in God. He puts God’s will first, takes things one day at a time, and looks to help others (**Matthew 6:33-34, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, Philippians 2:4**).

Interpreter of Dreams before Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:1-45, specifically verses 1, 9-13, 14-39**)

***We all have God given talents. When we are blessed because of these talents God has given us, do we give all the glory to God like Joseph?*** It is striking to me how many times Joseph points people to God with regard to His gift of interpreting dreams (**Genesis 40:8, 41:15-16, 25, 28, 32, 38-39**). Joseph does not promote himself because of his talent or have an attitude of “look at me and see what I can do!”. Do we give God the glory for the talents we have (**James 4:10**)? When Joseph humbled himself to God and acknowledged that to others, notice how God lifted him up (**Genesis 41:40-45**)!

**The Faith of Joseph, part 1!**

Many lessons for us to apply in our lives today:

* He made the best of the situation when sold into slavery.
* He handled temptations appropriately and ran away when he needed to.
* He maintained his faith when in prison and sought to help others.
* He used his talents to God’s glory and was blessed because of it.

We all need to be mindful that everything we have is from God. All of our talents and all of our blessings are because of God’s love and care for us!

If you are not a Christian, even you are blessed by God. He has given you life; He has given you a Savior, and He has given you hope. Why not humble yourself to Him like Joseph. Repent of your sins and be baptized to wash them all away. Humble yourself, and He will lift you up in this life and for eternity in Heaven!

If we can help you this morning, please make your wishes known as we stand and sing!