Tonight we want to talk about **“The Faith of Joseph”.** Sold into slavery (age 17) (**Genesis 37, specifically verses 2, 28 & 36**). ***Can you even imagine this happening to you? Sold by his brothers!***

We are members of the Oak Ridge church of Christ. We call ourselves Christians ([**Acts 11:26**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%2011:26)) and we hold to the Bible as our one and only Truth. Church of Christ is a biblical description of Christians who work together for the cause of Christ ([**Romans 16:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%2016:16)). We are independent assemblies with no organization beyond our own number as described in [**Philippians 1:1**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Philippians%201:1). There are Christians across the world working with local congregations of God’s people such as described in [**Revelation 2**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Revelation%202)**-3**. Christians are members of Christ’s body, which is also known as His Church ([**Acts 2:47**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Acts%202:47)**,**[**Ephesians 5:23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%205:23)). Our mission is to stand for God’s truth (the gospel) and teach it to all people ([**Matthew 28:18-20**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Matthew%2028:18-20)**,**[**Romans 1:16**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Romans%201:16)**,**[**1 Timothy 3:15**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=1%20Timothy%203:15)). We are accountable to our one and only Head Jesus Christ ([**Ephesians 1:22-23**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Ephesians%201:22-23)**,**[**Colossians 1:18**](http://oakridgechurch.lakesonline.com/passage.asp?v=Colossians%201:18)).

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 was 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 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**).

Joseph is blessed because of the talent God has given him to interpret dreams before Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:1-45, specifically verses 1, 9-13, paraphrase 14-39**). It is striking to see how many times Joseph gives credit to God for his ability to interpret 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**)!

Because of Joseph’s faith; Pharaoh, all of Egypt, and Joseph’s family are blessed by God. At 30 years old Joseph was put in as second in command to Pharaoh (**Acts 7:9-18**). After His family was brought to Egypt, He lived about 69 years in peace to a total age of 110 (**Genesis 50:22-26**).

**The Faith of Joseph!**

You can influence your family, neighbors, community, classmates, and colleagues toward God. But that influence must start with you. To become a child of God you must believe Him, confess that Jesus is the Son of God, repent of your sins, and be baptized to wash all your sins away (**Acts 2:37-38**). A true Christian puts his faith completely in God like Joseph. No matter what the situation; he or she is determined to put God and Jesus first in their life. ***Why not chose to follow the example of Joseph and humble yourself completely to God?*** He will make your life one full of purpose and hope, and will reward you with eternal life in Heaven!

Please check the scriptures we have covered tonight. We want to help you in any way we can. Contact us for Bible studies, by telephone, e-mail, or simply come to one of our assemblies. For our next program, in three weeks, we hope to be live, on **November 3, 2018, when we study “Lessons from the book of Jude”**. We hope to see you next time on "**Speaking The Truth In Love**".