

Going to the Bottom to Get to the Top

Introduction: God had big plans for young Joseph but his character would have to be severely tested before he would be ready to enter into all the God had for him. His was a calling that would require him to endure difficult trails yet the hard times could not remove him from the Lord's favor. God was with Joseph and it's through a series of amazing events that we learn what it means to keep our eyes on God's promises.

- The Betrayal; **Genesis 37:12-28** ...so the brothers pulled Joseph up out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph into Egypt. Joseph was elevated by his father while he was lowered by his brothers. His father saw him on a mountain top so his brothers threw him into a pit. Although sold into slavery, Joseph would not allow himself to be a slave to resentment.
Don't allow betrayal to make you a slave to victimhood.
- The Temptation; **Genesis 39:1-18** ...she caught him by his garment, saying, "lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran out of the house. Joseph was put in surroundings that tested his loyalty and his resolve to do the right thing in spite of his situation. Because he believed and received what God had shown him about his future, he fought the good fight of faith.
Sometimes, fighting the good fight means you gotta' run away.
- The Injustice; **Genesis 39:20** Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoner's were contained. Joseph was put in prison and the Lord went with him. God promises to never leave you nor forsake you. Like Joseph, where you are and how you are does not determine whether God is with you or not.
Don't allow unfairness to determine your future.

Joseph's dreams of future greatness would only be realized by a life that could only prosper because the Lord was always with him. Joseph's ability to prosper in any situation was because he never forgot that the Lord was always with him. The people around him recognized that the Lord was with him because of the way that he walked with God as his strength and his shield. Like Joseph; the Lord is with you. Don't allow betrayal to determine how you see the world or yourself. Flee temptation. Don't rely on fairness from an unfair world. Sometimes you have to go to the bottom to get to the top.