

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** Genesis 37:1-4 “Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 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. 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. 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.

**Quote:** Character is the product of daily, hourly actions, and words and thoughts; daily forgivenesses, unselfishness, kindnesses, sympathies, charities, sacrifices for the good of others, struggles against temptation, submissiveness under trial. Oh, it is these, like the blending colors in a picture or the blending notes of music which constitute the man. J.R. Macduff

Someone has said that “the heart of man is like a tea bag, just add hot water to find out what’s in it.” In other words, if you want to see what a person is made of, put him or her into difficult circumstances. For Christians, trials (or hot water so to speak) are God-ordained opportunities to display and to develop our faithfulness. Hebrews 11 lists many faithful individuals whom God worked in and through. We want to look at some highlights in the life of one such man. Joseph is an example of trusting God and doing right through several years of trials and triumphs. His life is an illustration of the sovereignty of God in the role of one individual to bring about His over-arching providence.

**Joseph was faithful through times of treachery.** Our peek into the life of Joseph begins when he was seventeen and lived in his parent’s home along with his eleven brothers and one sister. We learned from the above passage that his brothers hated him to the point of not being able to speak peaceably to him. Joseph added fuel to the fire when he told his family of two dreams in which they bowed down to him. What he told them was the truth, as they would one day learn.

What he told them set a series of events in motion that would have immense consequences for them all. The hatred of His brothers was so great that they planned to kill him. Their intention revealed the condition of their own hearts; it also revealed a callused disregard and blatant dishonoring of their father and mother.

In the providence of God, Reuben convinced them to throw Joseph into a pit from which he planned to rescue him later. What at first appears to be an awful circumstance to us can actually be God’s means of grace. “Where there is life, there is hope!”<sup>2</sup> His brothers spared his life, but sold him to a caravan heading to Egypt. Their sinful deed was part of *God’s plan* to use Joseph in Egypt. In doing what their evil hearts desired, they were unknowingly carrying out God’s design. After years of trial, Joseph would tell his brothers, “You meant this for evil, *but God meant this for good!*”

**Joseph trusted God and did right in times of testing.** It is noteworthy that Joseph was purchased by *Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh’s guard*. He was faithful as a slave and God blessed him.<sup>3</sup> “And his master saw that

**Be Faithful No Matter  
What, Part I**

*the LORD was with him* and that *the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.*” “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.” I am reminded that people draw conclusions about our faith by what they see in our lives. In Psalm 119, David wrote, “Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, Because I have hoped in Your word.” Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth, “You are our epistle written in our hearts, *known and read by all men*; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart.” Is your relationship with the Lord and your faithfulness to His Word prominent enough for people to notice His blessing on your life?

<sup>1</sup> Gen.37:21-24 <sup>2</sup> Paraphrasing Eccl.9:4 <sup>3</sup> Gen. 39:1-3 <sup>4</sup> II Cor.3:2-3