

# 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:** Psalm 105:16-17 Speaking of God and Jacob's family— "Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them—Joseph—who was sold as a slave."

**Quote:** "We have heard of many people who trusted God too little, but have you ever heard of anyone who trusted Him too much?" J. Hudson Taylor, missionary

**J**oseph was a young man chosen by God to do an extraordinary task. He was faced with a variety of circumstances that would test the faith of anyone. In part one, we learned that Joseph remained faithful to God during times of treachery by his own brothers and through trials as a slave in Potiphar's house. His legacy of trust does not stop there.

**Joseph trusted God, and did right in times of temptation.** He honored God and his master by refusing to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife. "And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, 'Lie with me.' But he refused and said to his master's wife, 'Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. 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.'" It is as though Joseph was saying, "After all that my master has done for me, how can I betray him?" Above all, he honored God. Joseph replied to Potiphar's wife. "...'How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?' So it was, as she spoke to Joseph *day by day*, that *he did not heed her*, to lie with her or to be with her."<sup>1</sup>

**Joseph trusted God and did right in times of trial as a prisoner.** Potiphar's wife accused him of attempted rape. This led to imprisonment in a place reserved for Pharaoh's prisoners.<sup>3</sup> "They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him."<sup>2</sup> Joseph remained in prison for years as God prepared him for his greatest role. He excelled there just as he had done in Potiphar's house because *the Lord was with him and blessed all that he did.*<sup>3</sup>

**Joseph trusted God and did right through times of triumph.** Providentially, Pharaoh's butler and baker were put into custody in the house of the captain of the guard in the prison where Joseph was confined. If Potiphar still filled the role of captain of the guard, he had likely observed Joseph's conduct and God's continued blessing upon him during his imprisonment. The butler and baker had dreams that were interpreted by Joseph through God's enabling. Both came true. The baker was executed. The butler was returned to his position. Joseph asked him to show him kindness by mentioning him to Pharaoh. The chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.<sup>4</sup> Two full years go by after the butler is returned to his position. There is little hope that Joseph's lot in life would change; however, Genesis 41-50 record Joseph's rise to power as well as his reuniting with his family. In God's providence, Joseph's interaction with the butler brought forth his release and a monumental change of events that would impact multiplied thousands of people, including Joseph's family. Pharaoh made him second in command over all of Egypt. In Psalm 105:20-23, we read that "The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom." One cannot help but wonder what went through the minds of Potiphar and his evil wife if they still were part of the royal court. Nowhere do we see that Joseph sought revenge over anyone.

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

Wherever he was, Joseph kept trusting and kept serving in the midst of the circumstances at hand! Throughout treachery by his brothers, testing as a slave in Potiphar's house, temptation by Potiphar's wife, trials in prison and triumph in Pharaoh's palace, the superintendence and blessing of God were evident. The truth of God's sovereignty will be gloriously illustrated in our next IMPACT as we take a final look at Joseph's remarkable journey and the lessons to be learned from it.

1 Gen.39:7-12 2 Psa,105:18-19 3 Gen.39:13-23 4 Gen.40