

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 139:1-12 “O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. If I say, “Surely the darkness shall fall on me,” Even the night shall be light about me; Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You.”

Quote: No one is immune to doubt and discouragement when dealing with a crisis; however, we must refuse to become sinfully distracted by circumstances that we see as our problem to escape and not as God’s providence to embrace.

Many lessons can be learned from Joseph’s restoration to his family and his care of the very brothers who heartlessly sold him into slavery. We want to look at just some of the drama involved as God’s providence continued to unfold. When asked to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams, Joseph glorified God and not himself. “It is not in me; **God** will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”¹ In drawing attention to God’s sovereignty, Joseph introduces the purpose behind all that he has endured for 13 years. He was 17 when he was sold and he is now 30. It is amazing that Egypt’s Pharaoh believed the word of a Hebrew prisoner who had interpreted the dream of his butler some two years earlier.²

At the naming of each of his two sons, Joseph states a truth that glorifies God. “And to Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came.... Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: ‘For **God** has

made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.’ And the name of the second he called Ephraim: ‘For **God** has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”³

Joseph’s brothers indeed bowed down to him, and recognized their guilt in selling him despite his anguish of soul. He revealed himself to his brothers and told them of **God’s providence** in all that had transpired. “Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near to me.’ So they came near. Then he said: ‘I am Joseph your brother, *whom you sold into Egypt*. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because *you* sold me here; for **God** sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And **God** sent me before *you* to preserve a posterity for *you* in the earth, and to save *your* lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not *you* who sent me here, but **God**; and **He** has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.’”⁴

Be Faithful No Matter What, Part III

Jacob’s last words to Joseph paint a picture of God’s sovereign oversight and blessing in Joseph’s life, as well as his faithfulness to God during grievous and prolonged trials.”⁵

Upon the death of their father, Joseph’s brothers feared retaliation from him. “Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, ‘Behold, we are your servants.’ Joseph said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for *am I in the place of God*? But as for you, *you meant evil against me*; but **God** meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’” Like Joseph, we must never forget that God ordains the end from the beginning and all in between.⁷ When we cannot understand what He is doing, we must trust Who He is—the Almighty Author of history, including our part in it!

¹ Gen.41:16 ² Gen.41:32, 46 ³ Gen.41:50-52 ⁴ Gen.45:4-8 ⁵ 49:22-26; J. MacArthur ⁶ Gen.50:18-20 ⁷ Isa.46:9-10