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THE LIFE OF JOSEPH LESSON 6

FALSELY ACCUSED

After the Ishmaelites from Midian purchased Joseph from his brothers, they took him to the slave market in Egypt. He was purchased by Potiphar, a man of wealth and distinction as a captain of Pharaoh's royal guard. (Genesis 39)

It did not take long for Potiphar to see the value of Joseph. God prospered Joseph in everything to which this slave put his hand. Potiphar made Joseph the steward of everything he owned. By God's hand on Joseph, Potiphar greatly prospered not only in his household and finances, but even in his fields (crops and herds). Joseph became well favored.

Satan always has a plan to destroy what God is building, and God's plan for Joseph was no exception. Satan put a sexual lust for Joseph in the heart and mind of Potiphar's wife. She begged him to make love to her, but he consistently refused because it would be (Genesis 39: 9) ***"sin against God,"*** as well as a violation of Potiphar's trust.

One day when nobody else was around, she tried to rape him. As she grabbed his garments to pull him and force him, he fled away leaving her with his garments in her hand. She called in all the men servants and showed them his garments and said that he had tried to rape her. They believed her, and so did Potiphar when he got home. Consequently, Potiphar had Joseph cast into the prison where Pharaoh's personal enemies were imprisoned.

As time passed, the prison warden saw Joseph's integrity of character. God gave Joseph favor as the warden entrusted all the other prisoners into Joseph's care. Because of the LORD and Joseph's desire to honor God's ways, he prospered even in prison. However, Joseph still had a desire to get out of the prison. This led to the next step in God's plan for him.

Psalm 37:4 says, ***"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."*** When you live your life to please God in all your ways, and it is your desire, He will "make a way" for you. Sometimes it is in a most unexpected way.

God's plan for him resulted in two men who were very close to Pharaoh being cast into that prison. Their misfortune was for Joseph's benefit.

Tomorrow we will learn how God used this to elevate Joseph for his faithfulness through what would appear to have been the bleakest times of his life: the pit, sold as a slave, falsely accused, and thrown in prison.

How would you or I have responded to such adversity? Would we be as wise and faithful as Joseph? Would we feel as though God had abandoned us? Or would we continue to trust Him even when we cannot “hear” Him or “feel” Him?

God rewards faithfulness, though it might be “later” than “sooner.” We must still trust Him.