

## Genesis 50:19-20

*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."*

Sometimes we think that life is so tough because of things we are going through. Yet if you think about it, some of what we go through is not because we are doing for the Lord, but because of bad decisions we make.

Yet, we still do get attacked because we are Christians, and the more we do for the Lord, the more the attacks come. But if you think you have it bad, think about how bad Joseph had it for many years, and all because he was obedient to the Lord.

Joseph was hated by his brothers who sold him into slavery, all because he told them what God had showed him in a dream.

† **Genesis 37:5** *Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.*

His own brothers eventually sold Joseph into slavery and he became a servant to Potiphar. Then he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife about trying to rape her, all because he refused to commit adultery with her and sin against God. The results to being faithful to God was being thrown in prison.

† **Genesis 39:9& 20** *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. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?  
Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.*

And while he was in prison, he helped two of his fellow prisoners by interpreting their dreams, and they forgot about him once they were released from prison. (Okay, one was hung, but the other forgot about Joseph)

† **Genesis 40:14** *But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.*

Eventually the prisoner did remember Joseph, but not until two years later.

† **Genesis 41:9 & 12** *Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.  
Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the*

*guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.*

Now I don't think that Joseph was excited about all these things that had happened to him for about 13 years, because he had no idea what it was all leading up to. But even though he had no idea why, Joseph's strength was by keeping his eyes on the Lord through it all.

The results of all of this is that Joseph became the 2<sup>nd</sup> most powerful man in Egypt, only next to Pharaoh, and people eventually saw him as God saw him. A man of God, and a wonderful, honest, dependable Leader, and he always gave the glory to the Lord and never himself.

† **Genesis 41:39-40** *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."*

So, long story short, you may not understand all that you have gone through for so many years, and maybe you are even going through some things now. But take Joseph's example and simply keep your eyes on the Lord, give Him glory for all good things He is doing, and in the end... Well, who knows what awesome things God has for you? **He does!!!**

† **Jeremiah 29:11-13** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*