

I Need a Hero! (3)
Old Testament Characters
That Teach Us New Testament Truths
Joseph, a man who stood up with integrity
(Gen. 37-50)

Introduction: Our hero today is Joseph, one of the most outstanding men of the Bible. Beginning with his birth in Gen.30:24 and extending the next 20 chapters to Gen.50, it would take more time than what we have today to cover every detail of his life. So, rather than look at every detail, today, I just want us to see some principles from Joseph's life and example that will help us stand up and be people of integrity. We'll break his life down into four stages beginning with,

I. Joseph went from favorite son to fallen son: (Gen. 30:24; 37:3, 11, 18, 26-28, 31-36; 39:1-6)

A. Joseph was Jacob's favorite but fallen son – (Gen. 30:24; 37:1-35) While Joseph is the eleventh son of Jacob, he is the first born of Rachel, and because Jacob loved Rachel,

1. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son – (Gen. 30:24; 37:3a)
2. Jacob's favoritism of Joseph led to a dysfunctional family situation – The presence of Joseph in the home didn't create problems so much as it revealed them.
3. Joseph's brothers devised a plan that led to the fall of the favorite son – (37:20)
 - a. Instead of killing Joseph, they sold him into slavery.
 - b. Then they killed a goat and put its blood on Joseph's coat and lied to their dad that Joseph was dead. (2 Tim.3:12)

B. Joseph remained faithful in spite of foul circumstances - (37:36; 39:1-6)

1. Joseph wasn't just betrayed by his family and sold into slavery; he was sold twice! (37:36).
2. Despite it all, Joseph remained faithful to God, during his difficult situation, his master saw the Lord in Joseph's character and conduct. (Gen.39:3)

II. Joseph went from favored one to forgotten one: (Gen.39:6 – 40)

Seemingly the point God wants us to get here is that Joseph enjoyed the presence of the Lord and won the confidence of his master.

A. Potiphar put Joseph in a high place – (39:6)

B. Potiphar put Joseph in a low place – (39:20)

1. Four times this chapter affirms that in spite of what Joseph was going through – “*The Lord was with Joseph.*” (2,3,21,23)
2. Even when Joseph by doing the right thing, was treated wrong, his integrity allowed him to hold his peace...this is because he had the peace of God!

Joseph would not throw away the blessings of God for the temporary pleasure of sin. Nor was he troubled because he suffered for his faithfulness. No matter what life threw at Joseph, he remained faithful to God and God remained faithful to him.)

III. Joseph went from forgotten one to fame and fortune: (Gen. 41)

Joseph may have been forgotten for the time being by the cup bearer, but he was not forgotten by God.

A. Joseph was remembered – (Gen.41:1-8)

You may understand your calling or your ministry and your purpose in life but not understand the reason God is allowing your present situation. It is times like these we must remember “our times are in God's hands” – all of them! (Ps.31:15a) Joseph remained faithful to God, and God honored Joseph's faith in His time. (41:8-14)

B. Joseph was released – When the opportunity arose for Joseph's pride to come out, his integrity is what kept him humble.

IV. Joseph went from fame and fortune to forgiveness and faithfulness: (41:39 – 50) It has been thirteen years of ups and downs for Joseph. (Cf. 37:2; 41:46)

A. Joseph becomes a godly leader in an ungodly land – Many times we wonder why God seemingly won't give us a break or a blessing – and it can more often than not be traced back to what we are doing with what God has already given us! (Lk.16:10f.)

B. Joseph's becomes a godly example to his ungodly brothers (50:19-21) Joseph believed His life was in God's hands to do with as He pleased.) what about you?

Let Joseph be your hero today! Let his story be one that helps transform us into people living with integrity, and honoring God in our character and conduct (*no matter what life throws at us*).