

JOSEPH

"Living Above Mediocrity"

"Character Matter"

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. – **I Timothy 4:12**

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. – **I Timothy 6:11-12**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. – **II Timothy 2:15**

We are known by the content of our character.

The English word "character" is derived from a Latin root that means "engraved".

Character is what defines true worth.

Nothing shapes a person's character more than hardships and prosperity.

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you." ⁴¹So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." ⁴² Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and men shouted before him, "Make way!" Thus he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt. – **Genesis 41:39-43**

Joseph's biggest test for his character would not come in prison but when he was promoted to the palace.

The biggest test you will ever face is when you are promoted or successful. Why?

➤ Pride doesn't accompany hardship, pride accompanies success.

The seven years of abundance in Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. ⁵⁵When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you." ⁵⁶When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. ⁵⁷And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world. – **Genesis 41:53-57**

Three tests that Joseph passed that proved he was a man of Godly character:

1. Joseph passed the test of accountability.

- With authority comes accountability.
- Joseph never took advantage of his privileges or took advantage of people.

2. Joseph passed the test of humility.

"And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. ³⁴ Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. – **Genesis 41:33-34**

But, "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ¹⁸For it is not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends. – **II Corinthians 10:17-18**

3. Joseph passed the test of integrity.

- Definition of integrity: It is who you are when no one is looking.

"Let God engrave His character in your life."