

# Joseph: A Young Person with Great Character

Gen. 37:2; 41:46

## Introduction:

- A. Story of Jesus from age 17 to 30.
  - 1. His dreams.
  - 2. His hardships.
  - 3. His successes.
- B. Joseph demonstrated several great character traits for a young person:

## Discussion:

### II. Joseph's Great Faith

- A. His words reflect a great faith in God. (Gen. 39:9; 41:51-52; 45:5).
- B. His behavior through "ups and downs" of life.
- C. His dying request (Heb. 11:22).

### III. Joseph's Great Self-control

- A. In Potiphar's house. (Gen. 39:6-12).
- B. In dealing with brothers in Egypt. (Gen. 42:6-8).
- C. In dealing with adversity and mistreatment.
- D. Self-control crucial to Christianity. (Acts 24:25; Gal. 5:23; 2 Tim. 3:3; 2 Pet. 1:6)
- E. "Self-control" versus "Self-indulgence"

### IV. Joseph's Great Propriety

- A. His appearance before the King. (Gen. 41:14)
  - 1. Showed good "upbringing" — not inborn, but trained.
  - 2. Showed respect for King and occasion.
  - 3. Should we not show more respect for God. (Cf. Mal. 1:8).
- B. Symptoms of our "casual" society.
  - 1. Little difference between holy and profane. (Ezek. 22:26; 44:23).
  - 2. Less honor to whom honor is due. (Rom. 13:7)<sup>1</sup>
    - a. All persons and events of same rank.
    - b. Little deference given positions or occasions.
    - c. Shown by address and dress.
    - d. Cf. Used to distinguish between times and clothes for "play", "work", "school" and "church."

### V. Joseph's Great Forgiveness

- A. Joseph's words show forgiveness. (Gen. 45:5-8).
  - 1. God had given him mercy. (cf. Gen. 39:21)
  - 2. He now extends mercy.
- B. Our Lord's teaching on forgiveness.
  - 1. Will not forgive unless we forgive (Matt. 18:21-35).
  - 2. How often? As often as one repents. (Matt. 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-4).

## Conclusion:

- 1. Joseph did not forget God in Egypt, nor did God forget Joseph.
- 2. How about your faith? Self-control? Propriety? Forgiveness?

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<sup>1</sup> Honor which belongs or is shown to one a) used of the honor which one has by reason of rank and state of office which he holds b) deference, reverence (Thayer).