

## When Things Don't Go Right

When we read Old Testament stories, we might wonder --- what the heck does that have to do with us? I mean really, a Jewish family, in a strange land, a family feud. Let's say a dysfunctional family, and a prisoner in Egypt.

Wait a minute --- that all sounds strangely enough .... familiar, especially if we recognize Egypt as symbolizing "sin".

### **Genesis 37:3 and 39:1-15**

===== Prayer =====

### **Genesis 37:3-5**

Joseph, a favored son, the second to the youngest at the time before Benjamin, yet hated by his brothers.

1) Being \_\_\_\_\_ is not always \_\_\_\_\_.

Know now that following God is not always popular among people we know.

Sometimes things don't go right!

### **Genesis 37:18, 28**

Joseph has favor --- does right --- yet.....

2) Do you ever \_\_\_\_\_ like your own \_\_\_\_\_ is against you?

Now this really sounds familiar for some, yet God is teaching us about Himself.

You know, Joseph's family probably doubted his relationship with God....

**Genesis 39:1-20** --- an amazing story of redemption, yay --- a happy ending.

**Genesis 39:2-4** --- states Joseph was blessed and prospered and found favor....

3) Joseph found \_\_\_\_\_ and went to \_\_\_\_\_!

Sometimes things don't go right.

### **Genesis 39:21-23**

I think we are beginning to see a pattern here.... Again, Joseph finds favor ... Joseph is maturing in trials. He is staying consistent --- yet he is in prison.

Do you ever feel like you are doing all the right things, yet things only get worse?

Maybe this is why we read Old Testament stories. Maybe God is teaching us about Himself.

What do you do when things don't go right?

### **(Paraphrase Genesis 40)**

Joseph interprets the dreams. I am sure he had his hopes up...

- Do you ever get your hopes up?
- Are you afraid to get your hopes up?

4) What do you \_\_\_\_\_ about \_\_\_\_\_ when things get \_\_\_\_\_?

**Genesis 41:1**

Two years later!!!!

Sometimes we feel like God has given us an answer --- yet we want more information!!!

Joseph, a man who has God's favor, going through trial after trial, sold into slavery at 17! Now in prison for over two years --- never takes his eyes off of God.

5) Don't allow \_\_\_\_\_ to dictate your \_\_\_\_\_.

What are you going through?.....

**Genesis 41:37-41**

Joseph's faithfulness paid off. So will yours.

When things don't go right.....

6) You don't \_\_\_\_\_ until it is \_\_\_\_\_.

God is molding you and making you.

**Genesis 45:1-8** --- Wow!

What can we learn about forgiveness, trust, lack of bitterness and resentments?

7) God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you for \_\_\_\_\_ in every circumstance.

When things don't go right.....

*\*\*\*Recognize God is in control --- not your circumstance.\*\*\**

Do you trust God? It can be hard I know, but I believe you do.

*Sometimes when things don't go right in our eyes, they are perfect for God's plan in our life.*

**Romans 8:28 'And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. '**

*When things don't go right, it is up to you to adjust your mental attitude about the circumstances in your life.*

**Isaiah 26:3 'You will keep him/her in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he/she trusts in You.'**