**Righteousness is Not Always Rewarded...Right Away** *God meant it For Good - A study of the life of Joseph - part 4* **Genesis 39:12-23 (ESV)**

**1) Character is often criticized and SLANDERED v 12-18** .  **.**

She caught him by his garment, saying: Lie with me. But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. **13**And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, **14**she called to the men of her household and said to them: See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. **15**And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house. **16**Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, **17**and she told him the same story, saying: The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. **18**But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house.

**2) Character is CONSISTENT no matter the circumstances v 19-20**  .

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him: This is the way your servant treated me, his anger was kindled. **20**And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

**Psalms 105:17-19-** he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.

**3) Character sees present problems as FUTURE preparation v 21-22**

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **22**And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

**4) Character is content with the Lord’s PRESENCE & approval v 23 .**  .

The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

**1 Peter 2:19-25 (ESV)  “**For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in His mouth. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls”