JOE **– Joe Mamma – wk2 – Potiphar’s Place**

**The events of Joes life were not necessarily tasteful – but they shaped his life and changed the world forever.**

**Like the brownies last week – we may not like the individual ingredients, but when mixed together and put thru the fire… Life is a mixture of egg heads and nuts that brought me here.**

**A dysfunctional home - Joseph son 11 of 12, from of Jacob/ Israel… Genesis say- Grandfather Isaac was reviled by his brother Ishmael - Joe’s family moved to escape his uncle’s wrath - His mom died when he was 12, His sister was raped and his brothers went commando on local town – he has two sets of stepmoms – his oldest brother slept w/ his step mom. But joseph was faithful…**

**It was in his faithfulness – that God gave Joe a glimpse of the future.**

**2 dreams that his whole family and nations would bow to him**

**\* In jealousy - His bros abused him, threw him in a well, then sold him**

**\* They told their father that he was dead – faked his death**

**(Jacob is devastated) Gen 37:35 …I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him. (Joseph is dead and so am I inside) 36 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.**

**\* Last we heard - he was heading toward Egypt as a slave**

**(Gen 38 is a disturbing story about Judah – 39 picks Joe back up) Genesis 39:1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.**

**The journey to Egypt – being sold – country boy in the big city – forced to learn a new language, in a pagan culture – no family - only God follower in an empire of idols – imagine the fear/ sadness**

**(I love this verse – in spite of all this…) 2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. (He was away from his faith support group and his family… but God was with him)**

**Genesis mentions Joe having God’s favor - a lot.**

**While the majority of Gen focuses on God faithfulness to His people – the story of Joe is about his faithfulness to God.**

**What we see his faith, character, and perseverance, something not seen up to this point (No one other than Daniel compares to Joe’s character)**

**Gen 39:3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.**

**Why did he have God’s favor? Grace.**

* **He focused us on the presence of God, not the presents of God**

**We never see Joe calling out for raises and more blessings… it followed him. With humility he sought God’s face not his hands – he never sought God’s blessing – he just sought God.**

**2 Chronicles 16:9- For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.**

* **He had faith in God for who He is, not what He saw Him doing**

**Even though he was a slave w/ no hope of advance, a marriage or his own place - he gave his all to honor God.**

**(Paul talking to those forced into a life of being a bondservant) Colossians 3:22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, (when they are watching) as people-pleasers, (just to make them happy) but with sincerity of heart, (integrity and conviction) fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, (put your heart into it) as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (This was the attitude of Joe)**

**Whether I am getting paid enough – have the right position – have the right conditions – I am going to serve God faithfully and work as if it for the Lord himself. (Work – school – tasks)**

* **He sought obedience for relationship, not for prosperity**

**Gen 39:4a - Joseph found favor in Potiphar’s eyes and became his attendant.**

**He did not use people – he served Potiphar as unto God.**

**He was not climbing the ladder – he was caring for people.**

**He was not stepping on people to get ahead.**

* **He was reliable and committed to what was entrusted to him**

**Genesis 39:4b - Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. (He trusted Joe - showed himself trustworthy)**

**He did not cheat the clock – sneak in late – or do the least he could to get by – surfing the net all day – found trustworthy.**

**His commitment to God, faithfulness, and honest service gave him favor with others – How about you? Would you be described like this?**

**BTW - God was blessing this pagan Potiphar on behalf of Joseph – this is a great example of how your walk with God makes a difference in a not so God-like school or workplace.**

**Gen 39:6a - So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, (Here’s the key to my house… I trust you – not a lot of people like Joe) he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. (LOL - Food is important to us men…) Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, (only time the bible gives this description - There is a down side of being good lookin’…)**

**Joe’s Mamma - His Mother Rachel was also known for her beauty**

**Jacob fell in love with Rachel at first sight (described as beautiful) worked 7 yrs for her father to marry her on the morning after his wedding, he rolled over to see Rachel’s crooked eyed older sister - But Jacob loved Rachel so much he worked another 7 years for her hand in marriage – 14 yrs total**

**Gen 39:7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"**

**In this story the man is the victim, the woman is the victimizer:**

**Men and women are equally evil - Many women know how other women can be – flirtatious – manipulative – suggestive.**

**I am for equal rights - Equal rights means we are equally evil.**

**Joe could have said: I deserve a break – stored up enough good points – God wants me happy – I’m lonely – I really like her – it’s consensual - God, she is hot and this is a customary practice – no one is looking – complete anonymity - I may never be married anyway… why not?**

**God had been showing favor on Joe because he found in Joe character – a lack of character could destroy his future.**

**I have seen it in families, businesses, ministries, friendships**

**JOE: This may bring me her favor. But, will he seek God’s favor or people? Defining moment - could start a secret life of sin**

**Gen 39:8 - But he refused. (No - let me think – let’s just flirt – let’s mess around – instead straight up – no!)**

**He made a choice – men you can too – women you can too**

5 CHALLANGES TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE CHARACTER!

**Character is what you are when no one else is looking.**

**1) Let your faith be known to those around you**

**Genesis 39:3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,**

**You’re less likely to do certain things if you take a stand early**

**Gen 39:8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. (He was thinking about Potiphar – what would he think?)**

**2) Remember those who are relying on you**

**Wife, husband, kids, friends, class, life team, coworkers, boss, niece, little sister /brother - they are watching you! Remember they are relying on you!**

**Gen 39:9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (This may not be a big deal to you, but this is a big deal to God)**

**3) Call sin, sin!**

**My parents - my bros - the pastor isn’t here - but God is here. And this is sin – no meter who I am with. He was bold about it.**

**Gen 39:10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, (kept trying, she was relentless) he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.**

**When he walked into the room- Cue Barry White, “Love Making Music” - she kept changing tactics – dress – style – hair - mood lighting – some people just won’t give up. He said no once, but there will always be more than just one time.**

**(How did he stay out of trouble?) Gen 39:10 - …he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.**

**4) Never be alone with temptation**

**Some of you toy with the notion… follow – fantasize - obsess – think about – chat online – send emails - change schedules to be near – flirt with it… but her refused to even be with her alone.**

**Gen 39:11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. (She might have sent them outside) 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" (a command) But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. (Young virgin man who may never marry – why not? He remembers, God and Potiphar are counting on me)**

**13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. (many lie and play the victim when caught in sin) 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." (She cries - Joe is a pervert - She seeks to destroy his character) 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: (The guilty like to talk first, to sell their story) "That Hebrew slave you brought us (Cast the blame to control and manipulate) came to me to make sport of me. (Tease me like a game) 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." (Wife crying, accused assault on wife – What would you do?) 19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.**

**Then he sat Joe down heard Joe’s story and lived happily ever after**

**But - he never heard the other side – 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.**

**Seemed like things were going great – life was looking good – Plot twist – unjustly accused, judged and tossed into prison.**

**This was not the Martha Stewart cup cake jail – cable TV, bunk beds, board games, toilets, weight room & cigarettes – this was old school Egyptian prison – bad place for a good-looking young man.**

**His character and commitment to God seemed to backfire - but**

**5) Regardless of the cost, say no and run**

**Reality Check: The more you obey God the harder life can get**

**Just because you’re Christian does not mean everything goes well, for Joe it eventually does… but it is w/a lot of fire & trials.**

**That is the end of the episode… scenes from next week… Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. (Prison warden)**

**\*\* From problems at home - to Potiphar’s home - to a prison home – the one thing that stayed the same – “The Lord was with him…”**

**Joe: I was abused by my family, falsely accused, thrown in prison, lost the best years of my life here, may never know love or have kids, I might die here – But no matter what - I will not give up or give in - Because the LORD is with me!**

**There is an unexplained peace & contentment w/ knowing God!**

**39:21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love (lord gave him faithful 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. (You know you have favor in prison when – they give you the keys) 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.**

**His commitment to the LORD, his faithful and honest service and character gave him favor – not seen often today…**

**It was in dying to self that he found hope. Living for Jesus is about death - dying to self and living by one motto: What will honor God?**

**Luke 9:23 - Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.**

**In Joe we see Jesus: Both had miraculous birth / both favored by their Father / betrayed by someone close / he was hated, despised, rejected / sold for the price of a slave in silver / sent to Egypt while in their youth / tempted but refused / his garments were ripped from him / false charges we brought up about him / both were placed with 2 guilty prisoners / Joe sent to prison – Jesus sent to the grave.**

**Just as that was not the end of Jesus, this is not the end for Joe**

**Today is not the end of your story – but you need to die – die to self – die to sin – turn to Jesus and choose - What will honor God?**

**Like Joseph pointing to Jesus – you need to depend on the LORD.**

**Next week we find out what prison life for Joe was like.**

**A TOUCH LAMP - serves it purpose but not it’s primary purpose unless it is plugged in to the right power source – then once it is touched it comes to life and functions the way it was created to – are you plugged in to this power source – The power can kill or supply it is all how it’s handled…**

**NAME TAGS - Hand out name tags – we are all on the same level – God can use you – I am not more eligible than you are – we are a name ready to be called – why Joe and not one of his other brothers…**