



Stepping Stones

Genesis 39:1-3, 7-9, 19-21 New Revised Standard Version

¹ Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ² The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hands.

⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, with me here, my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. ⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

¹⁹ When his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, saying, "This is the way your servant treated me," he became enraged. ²⁰ And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; he remained there in prison. ²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

Notes



"Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day." -Heraclitus

In the popular Christmas film, *Home Alone*, Kevin McCallister awakes to discover his family has "disappeared." Following several altercations with various family members the evening before, Kevin went to bed wishing his family would do exactly that: disappear. The remainder of the movie features Kevin having things his way, running the house, and fending off a couple of neighborhood robbers. With mom, dad, and siblings away, Kevin has no accountability and is able to do whatever he so chooses.

Not so with Joseph. His story lands him in the possession of Potiphar who quickly takes notice of Joseph's abilities, work ethic, and character, which, in turn, creates a relationship of trust between servant and master. Although separated by miles and memories (some of which were no doubt painful), Joseph remembers from where he came and makes the best out of a bad situation. There will be moments in our lives when we must also choose what we will do and who we will be given various circumstances. We can wallow in self-pity, give into selfish passions, or figure out ways to make others miserable. Joseph's experiences in Egypt advocate for a higher road.

1. Joseph was away from home, but not away from God.
2. Awareness of God's presence made Joseph unwilling to compromise.
3. Even as others lied about Joseph, God knew his heart.

Prayer Pebble: Lord, remind me that you are always with me. Allow this realization to shape who I am regardless of what others may be doing.