



Joseph had everything: looks, brains, financial success, and the number two position over Potiphar's house. Joseph was also an eligible bachelor - meaning he was sexually pure.

In biblical times, it was common for men to remain virgins until marriage (this is a legitimate trend that needs to make a serious comeback!).

Joseph's biggest test came when Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him into adultery. Joseph was only human and it's very likely this was a physically beautiful woman. Yet, the man of integrity honored God above temptation.

Potiphar's wife was unsuccessful in her attempts, so she accused Joseph of rape to cover her own infidelity, cowardice, and embarrassment. Without a fair trial, the words of powerful people were proof enough to convict a slave and a foreigner of his crimes.

In prison, Joseph was again given a leadership position. He met up with two inmates from Pharaoh's household and interpreted their dreams. One of the men was so impressed by the prophetic gift that he forgot about Joseph for two years! It was only when Pharaoh had a couple of disturbing dreams the former inmate remembered and recommended Joseph.

God gave Joseph the interpretation and, in return, Pharaoh promoted him to a governor position. Joseph saved millions from starving to death during a famine. Eventually, Israel and his sons came to Egypt and bowed down, thus fulfilling Joseph's dream.

There are many things to unpack in this story. One important thing to note is although Joseph was a dreamer, he was not a man who "followed his dreams." Joseph took (or was forced to take) the steps in front of him. He fully trusted God without knowing the outcome. As an arrogant teenage, Joseph had no capacity to understand his dream of ruling in Egypt or the sacrifices he would make to arrive in that moment. Proverbs 10:24 says, "The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way?" (NLT)

God allowed and used all the adversity in this man's life to mature and prepare him for leadership. When God gives you a dream or vision of your future, hang on to it! Don't sell out to fear or frustration or become offended with His timing. Call on the Lord to help you resist temptations to settle. Don't let suffering cause you to doubt His love or His plans.

Few men in the Bible were as undeserving of slander and punishment as Joseph, but no one is innocent of sin. Jesus is the only Man who can stand in the presence of the Father without the need for justification. Our faith in Him is how we're made right with God (see Rom. 3:22-24). Joseph's story teaches us to trust God with our lives and wait patiently for His perfect will to come to pass.