

Introduction:

Great people have been defined different ways. An ordinary person doing ordinary things during extra-ordinary times. A great person is someone who does not remind you of anyone else. The Bible is full of “great people” but one of the greatest is Joseph.

I) Overall We Would Say He Was Faithful in Discharging His Duties

A) He was sent to see about his brothers, **Genesis 37.2-3, 12-17**

1. Being faithful means to discharge one’s duties faithfully.
2. Often means going the extra mile, doing the extra things instead of the minimum.
3. It did not matter where Joseph was in doing his duties.
 - a. In Potiphar’s house, **Genesis 39.1-5**
 - b. In prison, **Genesis 39.23**
 - c. In Pharaoh’s government as second in command, **Genesis 41.40.**

B) Being faithful is a way of living and not a one-time event.

1. A faithful child will obey their parents.
2. A faithful spouse will always be true to their marriage VOWS.

3. A faithful Christian will always seek to do the will of the master. **1 Cor. 11.1.**

II) Faithful Sayings of Joseph

A) I cannot sin against God, **Genesis 39.1-12.**

1. He was not greedy, **Genesis 39.6.**
2. He was young, handsome, and alone, **Genesis 39.6.**
3. Temptation comes in various manners; in Joseph's case it came like a freight train. **Genesis 39.7.**
4. He might have gotten by with it; after all he had the opportunity (alone in the house) a willing partner (his master's wife).
5. His concern or faithfulness was to God.
6. If we want to be faithful we must first think about God and realize any and all sin ultimately is against Him.
 - a. if we cheat on a test, take something not ours, commit some sexual sin, etc.
7. Also of importance was Joseph's realization he would be sinning against his master. **Genesis 39.8,9a.**
 - a. The betrayal of trust
 - b. The misuse of his position in the house.
8. Old saying, "Sin will take you further than you want to go, cost you more than you want to pay, and keep you longer than you want to stay."

B) God will give Pharaoh the answer, *Genesis 41.15-16*

1. Earlier in interpreting the dream of the butler and baker Joseph gave credit to God, *Genesis 40.8*
2. Two main points
 - a. Joseph wanted to give all the credit to God.
 - i. We need to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought, *Romans 12.3*.
 - ii. One temptation success brings is to trust in self and not God.
 - b. God has the answers.
 - i. Obviously in Joseph's case, God was going to reveal the dreams and their interpretation.
 - ii. In our case the answer comes by studying God's word and learn what we ought to do.
 - iii. *James 1* says we ought to pray for wisdom. The answer will not come like Joseph's but we can learn what we ought to do.

C) Am I in the place of God, *Genesis 50.14-21*.

1. Imagine the temptation Joseph faced, he could have take revenge on his brothers.
 - a. They debated killing him, *Genesis 37.18-20, 26*.
 - b. They sold him into slavery.
 - c. They were always jealous and envious of him as a young boy.

2. Joseph could have focused on what they did to him, instead he saw God using Joseph in his circumstances for good, **Genesis 45.5-7**
 - a. Not the philosophy of let us do evil that good many come about, situation ethics. **Romans 12.14, 17-21.**
 - b. But Joseph knew God used him in those circumstances to do good.
3. We should not carry grudges, **Ephesians 4.26.**
4. Use our circumstances for good. Many a successful business was started when someone got fired from their job.
5. A number of years ago a young boy was killed by a drunk driver. The driver was sent to prison. Eventually the victims father visited the prison to see the drunk driver. He could have held his anger and hurt feelings, instead he started a Bible study with the prisoner. Eventually the young man was baptized into Christ. They became like father and son.

D) God Will Surely Visit You, and You Carry By Bones From Here, **Genesis 50.24-25.**

1. Joseph never lost sight of God's promise to Abraham, **Genesis 12.**
2. He looked forward to Canaan, as he saw the big picture.

Conclusion:

At the end of Joseph's life he expressed his faith in God. He knew his people would one day return to Canaan. We can be like Joseph and look forward to a time when we will be with our Lord and Savior.