

**THE EARLY YEARS**  
**The Legend of Joe Jacobson, Part 1**  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

An important question to ask: What would someone in your current circumstances do, if he/she was absolutely sure that God was with him/her?

We are always trying to get God to change things

We think, "If I'm good, God will be good to me"

Key Principle: When you respond in your present circumstances in confidence that God is with you, you will see God in the circumstances

We allow our vision to be distorted by our circumstances so that we miss God

Genesis 37:2-5; 23-28

Have you ever had questions like this?

- Would God really allow something like this to happen?
- What had Joseph done to deserve this?
- Where is God in all this?

God is in the middle of all this, although He is seemingly nowhere to be found or seen

Genesis 39:2 (NIV) "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered,..."

When "bad" things happen, it messes with your view of God

Genesis 39:1-6

When we learn to respond in all circumstances as if God is with us, other people notice

Joseph wasn't trying to change his circumstances, but he was doing everything he could, knowing God was with him.

Genesis 39:7-9

It's hard to remain faithful to God when you feel He hasn't been faithful to you

Every day we have a choice to make: Will I determine God's involvement in my life based on my circumstances or based on God's promise that He is with me

Genesis 39:10-20

Joseph receives the exact punishment he would have received if he had sinned

Genesis 39:20-21 (NIV) "But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord with was him;..."

The Bible doesn't pull any punches; not everything has a happy ending

Genesis 39:20-23

Often, if we don't see God in our circumstances quickly, we take matter into our own hands

It is only when we trust and look for God in our circumstances that we find Him

It is only when we respond to circumstances as if God is with us that we see Him there

Genesis 40:14

Have you ever tried to bribe or plead with God?

Genesis 40:23 (NIV) "The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him."

Do I measure God and His loving care for me by my circumstances or by taking the next logical step anyone would take in my circumstances who is absolutely confident God is with them?

John 14:1 & 18 (NIV) "[Jesus said] Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me...I will not leave you as orphans."

Jesus is saying, let not your heart be troubled, because of who is with you - God

If you live in absolute confidence that God is with you, you will find God in the circumstances and other people will sense something is different in our lives - that God is with us

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NIV) "...because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'"

Psalms 23:4 (NIV) "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me."

I will live as a person who is confident in God, who is with me

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- I will not determine God's involvement in my life by my circumstances but based on His promises to me found in the Bible.
- I will choose one day this week, and I will actively try to respond to each phone call, email, etc. believing God is truly with me.
- I will memorize Genesis 39:2, "The Lord was with Joseph & he prospered."