

- *5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. 9 “Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph: “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. Genesis 45:5-9*

### ☑ “God ... God ... God ... God”

- In studying the character of Joseph we have seen that his single most distinguishing feature was his ability to relate everything to God. God was in his thoughts constantly. There is hardly a sentence from his lips that does not have the name of God in it.
- **His story starts with a dream. Turns into a nightmare. Ends with destiny.**

### ☑ Phase 1- Pit

- You’re the favored son.. . and your brothers know it. You get a car. They don’t. You get Armani; they get K-Mart. You get summer camp; they get summer jobs. You get educated; they get angry~ And they get even. They sell you to slave trade and tell your dad you got killed in an accident. You find yourself surrounded by people you don’t know, learning a language you don’t understand, and living in a culture you’ve never seen.
- **Just because you’re blessed doesn’t mean you won’t be tested.**
- When you are new to the blessing, God will test you to see if you’ll flaunt the favor.
- From the pit to the palace. No Family to the palace. LA **Familia**- familiar...
- Some people God doesn’t send you to change them. He sends them to reposition you.
  - Haters think that pulling you down will bring them up.
- **He sent them here to get you there!**

### ☑ Phase 2- Potiphar

- *Why didn’t Joseph give in? 10 Commandments?*
- **Joseph didn’t need a law not to commit adultery.**
- **You don’t always need a law to do what is right.**
- When you recognize the hand of God on your life, you’re more concerned about offending Him than you are people!
- ☑ **Phase 3- Prison**
- I needed them to reject me. I needed them to sell me out. I needed them to lie on me. I needed them to forget me.
- *When I hand off my wallet, I hand it to someone I trust.*
- *Can God trust you with this?*
- **God trusted him with the trial. Trusted him with the favor. And trusted him with the power.**
- **He knew “that all things...” no he didn’t! But you do!!!**
  - The ONLY thing he needed to know was the character of God!!!
- ☑ **Phase 4- Pharaoh**
- All he has ever known is a life of fixing everyone else's problems.
- **Joseph went through three dreams of others before he saw his fulfilled.**
- **By buying into the dreams of others God tests our humility.**
  - Family employer friends Pharaoh favor
- *Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon... Genesis 41:14*
- Hurried!
  - In the morning he was in a dirty, stinking prison. But at nightfall he was sitting in the palace
- **Lost the coat but got a ring.**
- **I don’t know what you lost. But I’m here today to tell you God has something better!!!**

- **They never saw it coming. Family never saw that he would save them. Potiphar never saw that he would serve his slave. The butler never saw that the one he forgot would become unforgettable.**

- God knows what you lost. God knows what you gave up. God knows what you left behind. He had a ring!
- The last time he saw these faces, he was looking up at them from the bottom of a pit. The last time he heard these voices, they were laughing at him.
- Now is his chance to get even. He has complete control. One snap of his fingers and these brothers are dead. Better yet, slap some manacles on their hands and feet and let them see what an Egyptian dungeon is like. Let them sleep in the mud. Let them mop floors. Let them learn Egyptian.

- **Revenge is within Joseph's power. And there is power in revenge. Intoxicating power.**

- **You don't think revenge when you see destiny!**
  - It's hard to use a tool that's not in the box.
- Nothing is more characteristic of Joseph than his ability to relate everything that happened to him to God.
- ***But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. Genesis 45:5***
  - Joseph named his first son Manasseh because, he said, “God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household” (Gen. 41:51).
  - Joseph named his second son Ephraim because “God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering” (v. 52). Ephraim means “twice fruitful.”

- **Why didn't Joseph give up? Why haven't you given up?**

- *A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out.*  
*A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said: "I FEEL for you, down there."*

*An OBJECTIVE person came along and said:" It's logical that someone would fall, down there."*

*A CHRISTIAN SCIENTIST came along: "You only THINK that you are in a pit."*

*A PHARISEE said: "Only BAD people fall into a pit."*

*A MATHEMATICIAN calculated HOW he fell into the pit.*

*A NEWS REPORTER wanted the exclusive story on his pit.*

*A FUNDAMENTALIST said: "You DESERVE your pit."*

*CONFUCIUS said; "If you would have listened to me, you would not be in that pit."*  
*BUDDHA said: "Your pit is only a state of mind."*

*A REALIST said: "That's a PIT."*

*A SCIENTIST calculated the pressure necessary to get him out of the pit.*

*A GEOLOGIST told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.*

*The COUNTY INSPECTOR asked if he had a permit to dig a pit.*

*The COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR came along and figured the taxes he owed on the pit.*

*A PROFESSOR gave him a lecture on: "The Elementary Principles of the Pit."*  
*A HEALTH AND WEALTH PREACHER said: "Just CONFESS that you're not in a pit."*

*An OPTIMIST said: "Things COULD be worse."*

*A PESSIMIST said: "Things WILL get worse!!"*

*JESUS, seeing the man, took him by the hand and LIFTED HIM OUT of the pit.*