

# UNshakable

## MAKING THE MOST OF HARD TIMES

Part 3 – When God Doesn't Come Through  
Genesis 50:18-22

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1. THE STORY OF JOSEPH IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PUT UNFAIR HARDSHIPS INTO A **POSITIVE** FOCUS.
  - A. The best we can tell, Joseph was in Potiphar's service anywhere from five to ten years. *But, all through that time, God was **silent!***
  - B. Joseph found himself in prison, falsely accused. *Through it all, God was **silent.***
    1. *Genesis 41:1-8 Now it happened at the end of two full years that Pharaoh had a dream, and...it came about in the morning that his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.*
    2. *Genesis 41:15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.'*
    3. *Genesis 41:16 Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, 'It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.'*
  - D. Suddenly, God had spoken and all that Joseph had been through **now** made sense.

*Genesis 50:18-21 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. 'We are your slaves,' they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for **good** to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup>*

*So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.*

2. WHEN WE FACE HARD TIMES, WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT OUR PRESENT CONDITION IS NOT OUR **FINAL** OUTCOME.

A. Even when it is not apparent, God is **near**.

1. *Genesis 39:2-3 And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. <sup>3</sup> Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

2. *Genesis 39:20-21, 23 So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. But, the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. <sup>23</sup> The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper.*

3. *Genesis 41:38 Then Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find a man anywhere like Joseph in whom is a divine spirit?'*

C. When God is with you, your present problem is NOT your **final** outcome.

D. God is just as **involved** and at work in our life today as He was in Joseph's life then.

3. WHEN WE FACE HARD TIMES, WE NEED TO CONTINUE DOING THE **RIGHT** THINGS.

4. WHEN WE FACE HARD TIMES, WE NEED TO MAINTAIN OUR **INTEGRITY**.

***Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.***

5. WHEN WE FACE HARD TIMES, WE NEED TO REFUSE THE TEMPTATION TO BECOME **BITTER**.

A. *Genesis 50: 19-20 "...Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."*

B. *Romans 12:19 Dear friends, never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God. For it is written, 'I will take vengeance; I will repay those who deserve it,' says the Lord.*



