

STAY ON TRACK WHEN LIFE DERAILS YOU

Genesis 37–46

Key verse: ...the LORD was with him [Joseph]; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

—Genesis 39:23

1. Joseph Derailed (Circumstances)

- **Rejected at home**

His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

—Genesis 37:4

“Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘A wild beast devoured him.’”

—Genesis 37:20

- **Slandered at work**

It came about after these events that his master’s wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.” But he refused... “How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?” As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

—Genesis 39:7–10

Then she spoke to him [Potiphar] with these words, “The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me...”

—Genesis 39:17

- **Forgotten in prison**

“Only keep me in mind when it goes well with you, and please do me a kindness by mentioning me to Pharaoh and get me out of this house.”...Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

—Genesis 40:14, 23

2. Joseph on Track (Character)

- **Fulfill my responsibilities**

So he [Potiphar] left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.

—Genesis 39:6

The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge...

—Genesis 39:22–23

So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are."

—Genesis 41:38–39 (NLT)

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

—Luke 16:10 (NIV)

- **Maintain my integrity**

As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.

—Genesis 39:10

But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?"

—Genesis 39:8–9

The evil of bad people leaves them out in the cold; the integrity of good people creates a safe place for living.

—Proverbs 14:32 (MSG)

- **Trust God's sovereignty**

"God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God..."

—Genesis 45:7–8

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

—Genesis 50:20

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

—Proverbs 3:5–6

Meanwhile, live in such a way that you are a credit to the Message of Christ. Let nothing in your conduct hang on whether I come or not. Your conduct must be the same whether I show up to see things for myself or hear of it from a distance. Stand united, singular in vision, contending for people's trust in the Message, the good news...

—Philippians 1:27 (MSG)

"The apostle Paul had a strong and steady underlying consistency in his life. Consequently, he could let his external life change without internal distress because he was rooted and grounded in God. Most of us are not consistent spiritually because we are more concerned about being consistent externally."

—Oswald Chambers