

“Can You Be Trusted?”

At one time or another we have all asked God the same question or have made the same declaration. What’s the question or declaration you ask? Well, see if this sounds familiar: “Lord, how can I be used for your glory?” or “God please use me as you see fit according to your purpose for my life.” (I can see the heads nodding in agreement!) As a true believer and follower of Jesus Christ, our hearts compel us to want to do more for Him. I surmise that every Christian at one point, if not at many points, has looked to God for direction, purpose, instruction, and an assignment. We all seek to please our Father by extending ourselves in service to Him. In fact, our ambitions lead us to generate projects, activities, outreach, and ideas of all kinds that we feel could serve to further the message of the Gospel. The truth is most of our ideas are well intended and sincere. So, if that is the case (and I believe that it is in most instances), why does it seem that some of these ideas, projects, etc., never seem to take off, fall short, or the waiting period for an answer or the “green light” seems to drag on? It can be frustrating and disappointing, true? Of course! The next natural conclusion that we can easily jump to is to question whether God was really interested in that particular project. Furthermore, we begin to question whether God has approved of it or not and how do I know if He will approve of the next one that I step out in faith to do? Is there an assignment that I can fulfill for Him? These are fair questions. I believe one of the answers can be found in the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50).

Joseph was favored by God early on in his life. In fact, God had revealed to Joseph through a series of dreams that his future was bright and had promise (37:5-9). Anyone with dreams of that nature would probably not have a care in the world. For all intent purposes, his future was set. How encouraged Joseph must have felt! Yet he had no idea what was in store for him, but God did. God knew what the next 22 years were going to be like for Joseph yet He not only picked Joseph for the task, but allowed every terrible incident to happen along the way. Why? Because He knew that Joseph could be trusted with the unfortunate tasks that followed. God could have used anybody but He picked Joseph because He knew that he could be trusted. Let’s take a closer look at this. God had to know that He could trust Joseph to honor Him when he was being sexually enticed by Potiphar’s wife (39:7, 10). Joseph had plenty of opportunity to take advantage of the situation and probably would have gotten away with it but instead he ran. God *knew* that he would run. In another instance, when thrown in jail after being falsely accused by Potiphar’s wife (39:19-20), Joseph could have questioned, resented, and caught an attitude with God but he did not. As a matter of fact, we can confidently surmise that he stayed in an attitude of praise and worship because he was granted favor by the prison warden as well as ministered to other prisoners (40:8). Certainly no one who would have been angry, bitter, and resentful towards God would have had anything good to say about God but Joseph did. Probably, the most striking example of being able to be trusted was when his brothers, who had sold him into slavery, showed up in Egypt looking to buy grain. Joseph could have sought immediate revenge against them for what they had done to him years prior. The Bible says that he did not. Instead, he forgave them. Again, God knew that Joseph would not only forgive his brothers, but that he would understand why all of what happened to him *had to happen* (45:5-8). God knew that He could trust Joseph in a situation that many would probably have acted differently.

So, the answer then to the previous question is really another question: Can *you* be trusted through the trials, the process, failures, or successes? I am convinced that God knows ahead of time who can be trusted with what task. He knows who can be trusted with certain situations, trials, and even opportunities. God knows you better than you know yourself and because He does He will not allow anything that He cannot trust you with. In His infinite mercy and wisdom, He will delay that idea or never allow it to come to pass because He knows that the outcome, whether positive or negative, will be something that you cannot be trusted to handle in such a way that will bring Him Glory and save you from destruction as well. God had a plan and that plan involved Joseph because He knew He could trust him, even through the difficulties and successes. Can He say the same for you?