



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

---

**Sunday – March 11, 2018**

## **Heart to Heart...**

We sometimes struggle in our faith. The lessons that have come to us just don't seem to penetrate the heart at times because our minds and hearts are somewhere else. Instead of taking in the truths from God and His word, we readily agree with Him in our minds but the impact on our lives is something different. Suddenly a difficulty arises in our lives and we crumble into a world of self slowly withdrawal into ourselves with few answers and less response to the Lord. We can find ourselves hopelessly lost in the midst of a difficulty with no answers so we sit idly wringing our hands while our tears flow.

Life can be difficult no doubt but without a genuine sincere faith in the Lord one can be taken down easily. Life can be intimidating but without guidance from the word of God, it leaves us frozen. Joseph knew this all too well. Here was a young boy, with a wonderful home life and all his dreams before him. He didn't realize how much his brothers hated him and that hatred spilled over one day because Joseph was a dreamer and so beloved by his father. Jealousy and hatred consumed them! The brothers wanted to kill him but they were persuaded to sell their brother. A seventeen-year-old boy with a loving father on a journey with foreigners, sold by his brothers headed to a land where he knew no one. What a frightening experience that ended with him being sold into the hands of an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. What would he experience? What about his future? Suddenly one day out of nowhere he was accused of a crime against the wife of the Egyptian officer that he didn't do and found himself bound and put in prison, shackled in chains and an iron collar around his neck (Psalms 105:18). In all this, Joseph couldn't call on his father back home for help. Alone, imprisoned in a foreign nation condemned for a crime he did not commit. Over eleven years of disappointments and heartaches. But what do we find in Joseph? He was a young man that loved the Lord God. From his youth to the years of mistreatment there was a deep affection for his God. He could have been bitter. He could have complained and become depressed while feeling sorry for himself. He could have questioned, "Why me? What have I done to deserve this?" Instead his trust was in his God, his heavenly Father. His heart was set on following his God and dwelling upon Him bringing greater things to his mind-set. It took years but the outcome was all destined by God and Joseph refused to crumble under the injustices dealt him.

What do we learn? Why do things take us down so easily? When we are faced with dire circumstances, our reaction to those circumstances reveal much about our faith and trust in the Lord. His promises seem to fade from our minds and hearts. We shrink back rather than move forward. ***“But My righteous one shall live by faith and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”*** (Hebrews 10:38) We drown in our own misery and heartaches. And the words come from Joseph to his brothers face to face years later: ***“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) Think about it!!!

Brent