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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Sometimes it feels like the world is spinning out of control. (N. Korea; Terrorists; Economy)
- But, God is behind the wheel. God is sovereign. Yet, he chooses to partner with us to accomplish His sovereign purposes.

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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

- Joseph's story. Context:
  - Joseph is the favored son. (Gen 37)
  - He has two dreams about his destiny (Gen 37)
  - His brothers sell Joseph into slavery.
- God calls us to partner with Him to fulfill his sovereign plan. He has a destiny for each of us that helps fulfill his sovereign plan.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Principle 1: The greater the destiny, the deeper the **character** required to fulfill it. This is true corporately and personally. (e.g. building, foundation)
  - God longs for us to develop our character so we can fulfill our destiny. (power & character lines) We can't take short cuts.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- God promises to redeem our difficulties so he can deepen our **character** and we can fulfill our destiny. (Romans 8)
  - We don't get to choose what happens to us, but we get to choose our response. We don't get to choose what people say about us, but we choose our response. (Victor Frankl)

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Our response determines our character, our character determines our destiny. Joseph chooses his response wisely, because he believes God is in charge.
- Genesis 39:1-4, "Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there."

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Genesis 39:1-4, "The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned."

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Joseph doesn't sulk. He doesn't pout. He doesn't take offense at God. He doesn't allow a bitter root to grow.
- He surrenders to God. And God blesses him immensely. Joseph's character thrives because of His adverse circumstances.
- The adversity is the very thing Joseph needs to deepen his character, so he can fulfill his destiny. God is in charge.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Genesis 39:6b-10, "Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. No one is greater in this house than I am.'

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Genesis 39:6b-10, "My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?' And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her."
- Joseph is seduced, but he stands firm. If he allowed a bitter root to grow, he may have given in to temptation.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Potiphar's wife isn't done yet. One day she grabs Joseph's cloak, in an attempt to seduce him, and he flees, leaving his cloak behind. She falsely accuses him of attempting to rape her. (Genesis 39:11-20) Joseph ends up in prison.
- Principle 2: When we wake up in the morning with the world spinning out of control, God is still in charge and we can trust him. We must hold on to this truth . . . No matter what.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Even when life doesn't go our way, God still sits on His throne. And he isn't sweating it out. (whenever hardship hits, remember)
- Joseph is on a collision course with destiny designed to fulfill God's sovereign purposes.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Genesis 39:20b-23, "But while Joseph was there in prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did."

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- When we move from bad to worse, God is still in charge. He can still direct the future. He can still fulfill our destiny & his plans.
  - Cupbearer & Baker & more dreams
  - Joseph is forgotten
  - Two years later . . . Pharaoh's dream.
  - When we are on the road to character development, it often feels like God has forgotten. But, God is still in charge.

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**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

- Joseph ends up the second in command. His brothers come and bow before him. His destiny is fulfilled. God's purposes are fulfilled.
- Genesis 50:20, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

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