

Joseph: Witness of Faith

Joseph	<u>Trader 1</u>	Pharaoh
Judah	Slave	Wiseman 1
Simeon	Keeper of the Prison	<u>Wiseman 2</u>
Levi	Baker	
<u>Benjamin</u>	Butler	

Narrator:

*The example of Joseph is for us to know,
That remembering God helps us to grow.
He was sold, made a slave, sent to prison left forgotten.
Would he stay in that prison 'til his bones were rotten?*

*But he never forgot the God of his Fathers,
In Egypt where people would worship all others
Joseph spoke of God to any who'd listen
As he spoke of his faith with eyes that would glisten.*

*Each phase of his life, each test which he bore,
He remembered his God, who strengthened him more.
There were those in Egypt who could easily see
That Joseph's God blessed his life - set him free.*

Scene One: Joseph being sold. (Joseph in a pit brothers eating dinner)

Simeon	Joseph
Levi	Trader
Judah	

- Simeon** (pointing to distance off stage) What's that in the distance; the rising dust?
- Levi** A camel train!
- Simeon** Ishmaelite traders with goods from the east!
- Levi** Slave traders!
- Judah** I have an idea, rather than leaving Joseph to die in a pit - why don't we sell him?
- Simeon** Then there will be no blood on our hands.
- Judah** And a tidy profit besides. Joseph's a strong boy, he'll fetch a good price.
- Levi** (to the traders) Hail! Traders!

Trader (coming on stage) Hail!

Judah Are you on your way to Egypt?

Trader **Yes, to Egypt. We have spices, balm and myrrh; the best. Could we interest you?**

Simeon Well, no. But we are interested in selling you something.

Levi We have a slave we would like to sell

Judah (brings Joseph out of the pit and to the slave traders) Here he is., healthy and strong!

Trader **Why yes – very good. (He looks Joseph over)**

Trader We will give you 20 pieces of silver for him.

Judah Sold!

(Trader gives Judah the money and takes Joseph and chains him by his neck to a camel - they take him off to Egypt He pulls Joseph to Egypt as narration is being read.)

Narrator:

*Joseph was hated by his brothers – all ten.
They were selfish and definitely not godly men.
They thought only of money and then had him sold.
How these brothers were heartless, nasty and cold.
For days he would walk over hot burning sand.
But God never let Joseph fall out of His hand.*

*To Potiphar’s house Joseph was sold
Yet, alone in Egypt the Truth he’d uphold.
He served his new master with great diligence
And Potiphar loved the lad’s excellence.
His wife, however, of the flesh she did care
And desired in Joseph a man who was fair.
But in Joseph we see a rare righteous man
And from her advances he urgently ran!*

*Joseph was tested, and wrongly accused.
A story was told, a deception was used.
Cast into prison with chains on his feet,
A collar of iron to make sure his defeat.
But Joseph was cheerful – even down there!
He knew God continued to watch him with care.*

Scene Two: In Prison (stone walls, chains on every one but the keeper)

Keeper of the Prison

Butler

Joseph

Baker

Keeper (taking off Joseph's chains) Joseph you are unlike any other prisoner I have ever seen. You watch over others and try to make their life better. I will take off these chains and leave you free to help the others.

Joseph Thank you. You are a kind prison keeper.

Keeper How can you be so positive and caring in prison? You cannot leave here, how do you keep up hope?

Joseph My hope is in the living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, my fathers. It matters not where I am – my God knows and can deliver me even from prison if He decides to.

Keeper You have amazing faith Joseph! – Why don't you help those two over there, they look completely miserable.

Joseph Good day to you both!

Baker What's good about it?

Butler How could anything be good in this rotten place?

Joseph I can tell that something more than this prison bothers you.

Baker We have each had dreams and there is no one here to interpret them.

Butler If we were still in Pharaoh's court there would be many wise men who could tell us what our dreams meant.

Joseph But the explanation of dreams belongs to God. Not to Egyptian wise men. Tell me the dream and I will pray to God. He will tell me the meanings!

Narrator:

These two told their dreams and Joseph prayed.

The meanings of both were plainly made.

The poor baker would die in days – just three

The old butler's days would soon set him free.

Then Joseph asked – remember me.

Then Joseph begged – remember me!

Scene Three: Before Pharaoh (Egyptian scenery and throne)

Pharaoh

Joseph

Wiseman 1

Butler

Wiseman 2

- Pharaoh** What do they mean; the cows and the corn! Tell me what they mean!
- W.M.1** We have discussed it together and we are not sure what to make of it.
- W.M. 2** **We have a few different theories.**
- Pharaoh** I don't want theories! I want Truth! I have been troubled ever since I had these dreams I will not rest until I know what they mean.
- Butler** (nervous) Oh Pharaoh, Master – I may be able to help.
- Pharaoh** How could you possibly help? You're just a butler!
- Butler** (very nervous) When I was in disfavour with Pharaoh cast into prison I had a dream. There was a man in prison, a Hebrew, who interpreted my dream. He said I would come back and serve you wine again – and it came true.
- Pharaoh** (pauses) Bring me the Hebrew prisoner!
- (Joseph is brought in from the side and bows to the king)
- Pharaoh** I have heard it said that you can interpret dreams.
- Joseph** It is not in me to interpret dreams, oh Pharaoh.
- Pharaoh** What! Are you a hoax?
- Joseph** God shall give you an answer to your dream. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob knows all that happens in the world, even our dreams.
- Pharaoh** Then ask your God to tell you the meaning of my dreams!
- (Joseph explains the dreams to pharaoh as the narrator reads.)
- Narrator:**
Two dreams were one. God sent a sign.
To tell all men, "The earth is mine."
Years of famine, after years of gain,
God spoke through Joseph once again.
- Pharaoh** Joseph, there is none as wise as you. You will be the governor of this plan to help us through this famine. You shall be over my house! Only I shall be greater than you.

Narrator

*For seven whole years the grain grew tall
So food and plenty were common to all.
Then came the years of famine and need,
They ran out of corn, they ran out of seed.
Joseph built towers to store all the corn,*

To save for the famine when all nations would mourn.

*In the nations around – the food – it ran low!
But, there was food in Egypt, so Jacob said, “Go!”
Ten sons then met Joseph who claimed they told lies!
“Bring me your brother and prove you’re not spies!”
Jacob was grieved! His son might be lost!
But Judah would guard him no matter the cost!*

Scene Four: The Silver Cup (by a well for water and a place to sit for lunch)

Judah
Benjamin

Levi
Servant

The brothers are stopped around a well to get some water and take a break and are discussing events together.

Judah I can’t believe the eleven of us are heading home- there have been so many strange events around this whole affair it’s as if that Lord knows more about us than he is saying.

Levi (pointing to the sacks) well we’ve got sacks of food and the silver from our first trip, yes this is all very strange...

Ben **I was worried about leaving Father, he’ll be so pleased when we all get back!**

Judah I’ll be glad when this drought is finally over. We haven’t seen rain for two years.

Levi Then we will never have to come to Egypt again! If we ever have to come back to Egypt for food again and have to see that Egyptian Lord I don’t know what –

Serv (from offstage) Hey! Hebrews! (all look off stage to the voice and start to get up and look at each other) (as the servant comes on stage he says) Why have you repaid evil for good? Has not my Lord’s silver cup gone missing? You have done evil in this!

Ben **How can you say that? We have done nothing wrong!**

Judah We brought the silver we found in our sack back to you from our first trip, why would we steal silver from your Lord’s house?

Levi We haven’t taken anything! Search us and See!

Ben **Yes, search us and see that we have nothing of yours.**

Judah In whoever’s sack you find the silver cup in, let him die and the rest of us will be your slaves

(other brothers agree)

Serv Whoever’s sack the cup is found shall be my slave; the rest of you can go free.

The servant searches the sacks going from one end to the other – 11 sacks in all – he finds the cup in the last sack, Benjamin’s sack!

Serv See! I have found the stolen cup in Benjamin’s sack! You have rewarded evil for good!

(The brothers rend their clothes. In great sorrow they pick up the sacks and go off stage with the servant!)

Scene Five: Joseph’s Palace (Egyptian backdrops)

Joseph	Benjamin
Judah	Servant
Levi	

(The brothers come before Joseph and with great grief bow before him)

Joseph What deed is this you have done? Don’t you think I would miss that cup? Don’t you think I would find you out!

Judah What can we say? God has found out our sins and now we are all your slaves.

Joseph No, but the man who had the cup – he is my slave the rest of you can go free!

Judah Oh my lord, when we first came you asked us about our family and we told you of our father and our younger brother

Levi Against our father’s wishes we brought him with us.

Ben **My older brother is dead and my father didn’t want to lose me either...**

Judah I told my father that I would be a surety for Benjamin, I appeal to you to let me stay as your slave and let him go back! My father will die of grief if Benjamin does not go back to him. I will bear the blame for ever!

Joseph (with emotion) Everyone out of the room! Leave me alone with these men! (the servant leaves – the brothers wait to see what will happen next) I am Joseph Whom you sold into Egypt!!!

(The brothers look at him and each other in shock!!!) How can that be? **What?** Impossible! You are and Egyptian!

Joseph Is my father yet alive?

All brothers Yes, Yes,

Joseph I want you to send for him! And do not worry! I will provide for you ... God sent me before you to preserve life!

(They all group around Joseph like a huddle talking about how God has worked in their lives.)

Narrator

*God had a plan and purpose great,
The end of which they had to wait
To see how it would all work out
From their evil God brought good about.*

*No matter who, no matter where,
Joseph spoke God's word with care.
He preached the Truth in every way!
And so should we day by day.*