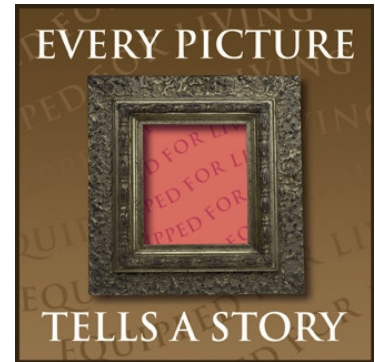




... when you need a break from the daily grind



EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

#2 of 8: *Joseph: a picture of commitment*

➤ **READY TO GO**

Commitment. When you hear that word, what image comes to mind? Perhaps a bride and groom standing at the altar. That should be a picture of life-long commitment, but with so many marriages ending in divorce, and with fewer and fewer couples actually getting married at all, this perhaps isn't the best example. Or in football, we sometimes hear of a "committed challenge" which basically means a heavy physical challenge that flattens the opposing player! To be committed means we are wholeheartedly devoted to something or someone and this has implications for the way we live. Consider the life of Joseph and we'll see what commitment looks like...

➤ **READ**

- Read Genesis 39:7-18. To what do you think Joseph demonstrated commitment in this incident?
- What practical lessons do you learn from the way Joseph responded to the situation he faced?
- Read Genesis 37:5-8 and 40:16-23. What aspect of commitment in Joseph's life is highlighted in these verses?
- To what extent does your life mirror the principles Joseph displayed and how are you going to deal with this challenge?
- Read Genesis 41:1-7 and 41:47-49. In what way did Joseph demonstrate commitment in this story?
- What practical lesson can we learn from the way Joseph served God in his position of responsibility in Egypt?

➤ **REFLECT**

Joseph was a picture of commitment in at least three different areas of his life. First of all, he was committed to sexual purity. Finding himself in a compromised situation with his boss's wife, he first of all reasoned with her and, when that didn't work, he ran away! Sometimes extreme measures are needed to deal with potentially explosive situations. Why did he do that? Because he feared sin above everything. Then he was committed to truth-telling, even when the consequences were unpleasant. What an important thing in an age when some people even deny that there is such a thing as truth. Finally, when he was given a position of great responsibility in Egypt, Joseph showed that he was committed to serving God with excellence.

God is looking for commitment from you and me. He wants us to follow and serve him wholeheartedly. After all, Jesus Christ, God's Son, was totally committed to doing His Father's will. This means that He is totally committed to the task of saving His people, even to the extent of dying on the cross for us. In light of this, what excuse have we got for half-hearted commitment?