

# *An Extraordinary Ordinary Joe*

By: Pastor Einar Rom

"During Marine basic training at Parris Island, S.C., the drill instructor threw a pine cone among the recruits and yelled, "Grenade!" The trainees immediately turned away and hit the ground. "Just as I suspected," yelled the drill instructor. "Not a hero among you. Didn't anyone want to jump on that grenade to save the others?"

A little later the drill instructor again threw another pine cone. This time, all the recruits but Mike jumped on the "grenade." "Why," demanded the instructor, "are you still standing there?"

"Sir," Mike replied, "someone had to live to tell about it."

Heroes are sought after, hoped for, needed, developed, groomed, and can be staring you in the mirror! Do you have a hero? Or let me ask, are you one? And do you wish to be one?

Recently I read of a teenager we would all do well to emulate. His journey to heroism began at the age of seventeen and when he was ripped from his pampered life and was thrust into bondage—he went from riches to rags. As we look at his teenage years from our 21<sup>st</sup> century vantage point, I see Joe, or Joseph as he is commonly known, as a hero and he, like all heroes have three needed D's to succeed:

**Dreams.** In Genesis 37:5a we read, "Joseph had a dream". This is the genesis of a hero—she or he starts with a dream. What is your dream? What do you believe God wants to accomplish through you? Joseph had a father, Jacob, who loved and adored his son and the fact of the matter is that you do too—your Father loves and adores you. Not sure? Read John 3:16.

**Difficulties.** Call them disasters, detours, or difficulties but the fact of the matter is that heroes are not developed lounging by the pool on hot summer days. They face obstacles and are defined by how they react to them. Joseph was stabbed in the back by his siblings who sold him into bondage as a slave. Then he endured a 500+ mile forced journey from the safety of his home land to the hostile and foreign land of Egypt. Wow!

**Devotion.** Something miraculous happens in Egypt—Joseph thrives. We read, "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of the Egyptian master." [39:2]. How did he land on his feet? One, the Lord was with him because Joseph had decided to be on God's team. Two, Joseph worked hard. The old saying is "Luck favors the prepared" and Joseph was prepared. He went the extra mile and his work was rewarded. He was devoted to his God and his tasks.

Today may end up being an ordinary and predictable day or it may be the day a hero is born and matures. The choice was Joseph's and is yours. Will you have Dreams, face Difficulties, and have Devotion? ■

