PART 3

THE EXODUS

You Can Count On Me

The story of the developing nation of Israel shifts from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob. The story of Jacob's son, Joseph, is an incredible one with a repeated pattern of people letting him down. His father, his brothers, Potiphar and the cupbearer all let him down in different ways. The unfortunate reality is that we all let people down at some time in our lives. We must continue efforts to avoid that but we also have to forgive ourselves. It's also true that others will inevitably let us down as well – even the people we most trust. May we make efforts to forgive them as we continue to forgive ourselves.

Scripture: Genesis 37, 39-41

Reflection:

Questions:

1. When might you use the phrase, "You can count on me" in your life – perhaps a particular task at work or at home? Do people trust that you'll follow through on it?

2. From his father, Joseph experienced a "Pedestal Let-Down" where he basically heard, "I won't give you what you want." Can you recall a time when an authority figure got knocked off a pedestal? Did this person make a mistake or did you simply mature in your relationship with him/her?

3. From his brothers, Joseph experienced a "Malicious Let-Down" where he basically heard, "I despise you." Have you ever felt attacked by someone who was supposed to be on your side?

4. From Potiphar, Joseph experienced a "Presumptuous Let-Down" where he basically heard, "I don't believe you." If you currently distrust someone because of a recent incident, have you considered that person's track record? Is this a repeated pattern or a one-time occurrence?

5. From the cupbearer, Joseph experienced a "Careless Let-Down" where he basically heard, "I don't care about you." These are particularly painful. If you can recall such a time, have you forgiven the person who let you down?

6. Do you believe God has let you down in some way? If so, which of the four categories might your situation with God fit in? As a result, do you still believe God is not trust-worthy?