

Joseph

"Faithful in Temptation"

Scripture Passage: Genesis 39:1-12
Wednesday Evening Bible Study - 1.18.2023

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So, Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. And after a time, his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

(Genesis 39:1-12 ESV)

OUTLINE/NOTES:

Introduction:

Question: "Will Joseph remain faithful to God in the midst of temptation?"

1. The Temptation Joseph Faced (v. 6-7)

- Joseph has two options: (1) Enter a life of secret sin, or (2) Refuse and deal with the consequences. This decision is going to direct the course of his life (one of the greatest decisions Joseph will ever make).
- There are many different reasons for Joseph to justify the wrong decision...but none of them were worth it to him.

2. The Refusal Joseph Gave (v. 8-9)

- Joseph valued his character.
- Joseph confesses this as sin (calls it for what it is).
- Joseph esteems sexual integrity as sacred.
- Joseph (above all else) loves God.

3. The Obsession Joseph Endured (v. 10)

- Although we hope the temptations we refuse will simply just go away, that's usually not how it works out.
- *"he would not listen to her, to lie beside her OR to be with her."*

4. The Flight Joseph Ran (v. 11-12)

- How much sin would we avoid, if we would just learn to run? (2 Timothy 2:22 - "Flee youthful lusts...")

Closing:

We do not overcome these temptations by having self-control over our heart's desires...instead we need to make Jesus Christ the greatest desire of our heart. That love for Him will overpower any other desire that may come our way. (See Philippians 3:8)