

Joseph, Sermon #5

Genesis 39 – The Life of Joseph

Last week, we started on a subject that is destroying our nation and our churches—
sexual sins.

No one is exempt from this kind of temptation.

Sexual temptation is on the offense, and Joseph is on the defense.

Joseph faced three waves of temptations, and he resisted these temptations.

How did he overcome sin's advances on him?

I've entitled this two-part series "Joseph and Sexual Temptation"

Genesis 39:7

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

Genesis 39:7-12

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

Joseph and Sexual Temptation

We ought not to be ignorant of Satan's devices—lest Satan should get an advantage of us (II Corinthians 2:11).

The schemes of sexual temptation and enticement are many and the goal is entrapment, impurity, failure, and ultimately destruction.

The first sexual temptation encountered by Joseph was the ambush style of temptation:

- Totally unexpected
- Our defense was to be prepared already by Proverbs 7:5, hiding God's Word in our heart!

The second wave of temptation, verse 10a—constant bombardment

- Our military has used this strategy in our recent wars
- Consistent shelling of the enemy; consistent volley of munitions in order to break down the enemy's resistance to fight—consistent volley to break down our defenses.

So, the second temptation is of persistent pressure—repeated enticement – keep knocking, keep pushing until a person gives in.

This woman didn't tempt Joseph only one time, but again and again and again.

This was a daily occurrence.

Because of Potiphar's job, Potiphar would be away from home a great deal of time as he worked for the Pharaoh.

- Maybe he was away from home too much.
- Many men and women are guilty of being gone—whether it's on trips or staying late on the job.

She was a constant temptation to him, yet this young man did not yield.

Notice Joseph's defense to this kind of attack (vs. 10b).

Every day, Joseph had the right approach:

- He did not listen to her;
- He avoided all contact;
- He avoided her presence.

We cannot allow ourselves to be put in a place of constant temptation.

Avoid it—the Bible tells us that our flesh is weak.

Joseph restricted all access to her.

This is the only possible approach to persistent sin pressure—because no flesh is strong enough to stand up to this—day after day.

If we keep ourselves in the place of sexual temptation, if we deliberately do it, we can expect to fall and fail.

Proverbs 5:8, *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house.”*

Proverbs 4:14-15, *“Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.”*

David fell under the ambush temptation.

Samson fell under the consistent pressure. Do you know why?

- He constantly sought out the wrong kind of people and kept himself in the wrong kind of places—spent his time with them.

What does this mean on a practical level?

Is there a person in your life that is constantly putting pressure on you in a physical way? boyfriend/girlfriend

- It is time to put an end to it
- Woman at the office or a man at work that is flirting.

If pornography is the problem, don't go into the convenience store that sells pornography.

Stay at the pump. Avoid it.

Internet—shut it off, or put a filter on it, keep it in a public place in your home.

Memorize verses regarding pornography.

Ephesians 5:1-17

Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”*

Don't trust yourself—trust God.

We cannot depend on God's help if we deliberately put ourselves into places of temptation.

There is no indication that Joseph was in the house other than when he had duties to perform there.

Joseph was careful not to be in the presence of Potiphar's wife.

We should not expect God to give us strength to overcome temptation if we willfully and enjoyably walk in the area of temptation.

In spite of her persistent approaches, Joseph remained free from the great stain.

- It took a great deal of wisdom and determination for Joseph to fight this battle day after day, but he succeeded.
- Potiphar's wife, however, did not give up.

This brings us to the Third Wave of Temptation

Genesis 39:11 – It was an ordinary day—but no one was present

So, the situation came to a climax one day when Potiphar's wife apparently determined that she would actually grab Joseph and force herself on him – Vs. 12.

The time was right since everyone was gone.

The devil always selects the most opportune time to cast his darts.

If one waits until after the temptation strikes, there is usually not time to take the shield of faith and ward off the attacks of Satan.

The time to take the shield of faith and be sure it is securely in place is early in the morning during our devotional time.

- As we prepare for the day's activities, be sure our heart is right with God and that our dependence is on Him.
- The time in the morning spent alone with God is the most important time of the day for us.

So, be wary of a time of seclusion and privacy—they can be times of great temptation—you're alone with the opposite sex.

- Young people should not be parking alone in dark places—alone watching television/Internet
- Business people travel—different city.
- These can be very dangerous times.

What was Joseph's resistance? He fled.

For the second time in his life, Joseph lost his coat—"Joseph lost his coat but he kept his character."

II Timothy 2:22, "*Flee also youthful lusts.*"—run away

We have the unequivocal command, "Flee fornication" (I Corinthians 6:18).

- God's Word makes it clear that there is no possibility of fornication ever being acceptable.
- God's defense used against believers committing fornication was not the possibility of pregnancy or the possibility of venereal disease, divorce, etc.

- God said the Christian's body belongs to Him.

The believer's body is referred to as the “temple of the Holy Ghost.”

It is unconscionable that any Christian would want to take the temple of the Holy Spirit and use it to commit an act of fornication.

Joseph knew it was better to lose his garment than to lose his purity and pure conscience.

So, He did not linger in the presence of temptation—he fled.

Flight is the only safety for certain forms of temptation.

First, Joseph refused her (v. 8); secondly, he avoided her; and finally he ran from her.

Unfortunately, many believers flee temptation only to wait around the corner for it to catch up to them!

Drastic action is necessary—run from it!

Joseph is without a Bible, Christian radio, no pastor, no preaching, no fellowship of the saints.

Joseph resisted the suddenness of temptation, the persistence of temptation, and the assault of temptation

Let me give you four important factors in Joseph's victory:

First, there was his unquestioned loyalty to God.

- When we are playing with sin, flirting with sin—we are not loyal .

Second, although Joseph was living in a corrupt society, he was still shocked by sin.

- Joseph saw it as “this great wickedness.”
- We will have victory in our lives only when we see sin as being as awful as it really is.

If we don't think it is bad/it is sin—we are in trouble.

Third, Joseph won the victory over temptation because he was prepared.

- *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”* (Galatians 5:16).
- Joseph's faith was firmly established in God.

This will give us spiritual strength as we take the armor of God for the day ahead of us.

Fourth, Joseph was able to victoriously stand against temptation because his mind had not been dwelling on impure things—as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

- Had he been thinking constantly about her, this would have conditioned him for a fall into sin.

But his mind was clear.

- He was concentrating on his work and not even considering the possibility of yielding to the desires of Potiphar's wife.
- To Joseph, it was unthinkable to even consider yielding to such a temptation.

In Joseph's situation—being tempted by the words, looks and actions of Potiphar's wife—he was able to resist.

If Joseph were living in our day of the new morality, he would use the very same defenses.

Now, let's finish the story.

Vs. 13-16

She used that coat that Joseph had left behind to make it appear that he was guilty. Young Joseph, down there alone in Egypt, and he is being framed in the most dastardly manner.

She is crying, “Rape!”

When Potiphar returned home, his wife repeated her story to him (vs. 17-18).

In effect, she seemed to place the blame on Potiphar himself for giving a foreign slave such authority and freedom around the house that he would try to take advantage of his own faithful wife!

On hearing her story, Potiphar’s “wrath was kindled.” (vs. 19)

- If your wife said this to you, how would you respond?

The severest penalty of the law (capital punishment) would be appropriate—capital punishment, and what was Potiphar responsible for? The executions

- But rather than having Joseph killed, he merely put him in a prison reserved for political prisoners.
- This was very unusual and it tends to lead us to believe that Potiphar did not believe his wife.

It is noteworthy that this was the same prison over which Potiphar himself was in charge (Genesis 40:3-4). Who is captain of the guard? Genesis 39:1—it’s Potiphar.

But, what a lie Potiphar’s wife told about Joseph!

- He had refused her invitation to sin because he did not want to dishonor God, and now through her lie, Joseph was going to jail.

Do what’s right and still get the shaft.

- Could this be the reward Joseph received for his faithfulness to God?
- How discouraged he might have been.
- Think of all the things that had happened to him.

Perhaps Joseph wondered, what next?

- Does Godliness really pay?
- Should I continue to do what is right?

The answer is, yes.

Joseph and Sexual Temptation

Let us stand for closing invitation

Are we involved with any type of sexual sin?

Confess it, repent of it—make plans to remove it or ourselves

Maybe it's in the mind/thought life.

We need to throw the garbage out and put God's Word in—memorize Scripture regarding it.

Where are we being sexually tempted? Are we secluded?

Are we placing ourselves in dangerous situations?

Are we as believers taking God's indwelt bodies and committing fornication?

God forbid!

Let us not be ignorant of Satan's devices and traps.

We are all tempted—we must resist.

Jesus Christ was tempted in all points, like as we are, yet without sin.

Have we sinned? Jesus Christ paid for that sin.

Gospel