

Genesis 39 – Joseph Flees Sin

God Provides: A Holy Path not an Easy Path

Section 1: 39:1-6 – Faith Endures

Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there. ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master. ³When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made everything he did successful, ⁴Joseph found favor with his master and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority.

Once Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers he was faced with temptation. And not just one temptation but many. Bitterness, self-pity, anger, hate...just to name a few. Temptation is a real and powerful force working against us. One thing we must remember...as Joseph remembered: our circumstance never impacts God's ability to work mightily through His people. At this point in Joseph's life, he is a slave. Even when he's promoted in Potiphar's house, he is still nothing more than a slave. A piece of property.

Regardless of our circumstances we must live out 1 Corinthians 10:31 (CSB): *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.* Our ability to glorify God with our lives has nothing to do with circumstances and everything to do with our personal relationship with God Himself.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why should we take sinful temptations seriously?
- ❖ What are some practical steps we can take to battle temptation?
- ❖ How do your circumstances impact your ability to fight temptation?

Section 2: 39:7-15 – Justice Seems Silent

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. ⁷After some time his master's wife looked longingly at Joseph and said, "Sleep with me." ⁸But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's wife, "with me here my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has put all that he owns under my authority. ⁹No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do this immense evil, and how could I sin against God?"

Have you ever been wronged? Have you ever been wronged and justice wasn't served? In that moment we find out how well we are walking in the Spirit and producing the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25. How we handle trials, tribulations and temptations actually matter. Biblically how should we view trials, tribulations and temptations? I'm glad you asked. James 1:2-4.

We are to handle trials, tribulations and temptations with GREAT joy. Not just joy but GREAT joy. Why would God ask us to have GREAT joy in the midst of such hardship? Because Jesus is enough. Hardships in life should remind us that all we need is Jesus. And if we have Jesus...we have EVERYTHING. John 6:66-69.

If there is one thing you need to convince yourself of...convince yourself that Jesus is enough. Get yourself to the point where you can join Paul in saying: *For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain* (Phil. 1:21 CSB).

But...even if we handle trials, tribulations and temptation biblically and wonderfully, it doesn't guarantee worldly success. Joseph did everything right...yet justice seemed silent. Justice isn't our responsibility. We don't run around seeking justice. Justice belongs to the Lord. Hebrews 10:30.

Our ministry is one of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.

What is the ministry of reconciliation? The gospel. We are to be looking for every opportunity to share the gospel. Even when justice seems silent. Even when trials seem too hard. Even when tribulation seems unending. Even when temptation seems too strong. We are lights to a broken world.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How difficult is it to "take matters into our own hands"?
- ❖ How can we discern when God wants us to endure injustice and when He wants us to act on the behalf of justice?
- ❖ According to 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, we are to be dedicated to the ministry of reconciliation. Why?

Section 3: 39:16-23

¹⁹ When his master heard the story his wife told him—"These are the things your slave did to me"—he was furious ²⁰ and had him thrown into prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison. ²¹ But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor with the prison warden. ²² The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. ²³ The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him, and the Lord made everything that he did successful.

Joseph is doing all the right things yet he's went from favored son to a slave to a prisoner. He is slowly making his way to the very bottom of society. BUT as we saw earlier, Joseph's circumstances have zero bearing on his ability to glorify God.

Think about where you are at in life right now. Could it be better? Could it be worse? Does either impact how God can use you right now? Far too often we find ourselves focusing on things that ultimately hold us back. Ultimately, what is actually holding you back from fully, going all in glorifying God with your life...has zero to do with your circumstances and everything to do with your lack of faith that Jesus is enough.

Jesus is enough. You don't need money, fame, an easy life, a good life, a photographic memory...you need Jesus. Philippians 4:10-13. Paul is teaching that he can endure any circumstance this life throws his way...why? Because no matter where he finds himself...he can endure and live for Christ. Because Jesus is enough.

It's easy fall in love with the "riches" of this world. But we must stay tethered to reality. Reality is that all of what we see of this physical world, empires, riches...will be burned and done away with. All of it. Mark 8:34-37.

When Jesus is enough...circumstances don't impact your ability to glorify God. When Jesus is enough...circumstances cannot rob you of joy. When Jesus is enough...circumstances cannot steal your peace. Romans 8:38-39.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What is holding you back from going "all in" on glorifying God with your life?
- ❖ Will you commit today to seek to glorify God with every aspect of your life?