

# *Joseph's Temptations*

Dick Ward preached at: So. Tuscaloosa 02/03/02

## **INTRODUCTIONS:**

1. There are many lessons from Joseph
  - ^ Name appears 228ts in KJ
  - ^ With exception of Abraham - Joseph occupies more space than any other personal narrative in the O. T.
2. Temptations come to all
  - ^ (1 Cor 10:13 KJ) There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
3. Temptation is connected directly to Satan's success
  - ^ (James 1:14 KJ) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ( 1:15 ) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
4. To be spiritually successful the Christian must be able to overcome temptations!
5. Consider together the "*temptations*" of Joseph
  - ^ Temptations come to all

## **I. TEMPTATIONS AT HOME**

### **A. HIS FATHER'S LOVE**

1. Son of Jacob's old age
  - ^ (Gen 37:3 KJ) Now **Israel loved Joseph more** than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.
2. Parents partiality creates problems
  - ^ Gen. 37:3 - coat of many colors
3. Brothers saw the partiality and love
  - ^ (Gen 37:4 KJ) And when **his brethren saw** that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they **hated him**, and could not speak peaceably [friendly margin] unto him.
4. Yet father rebuked Joseph -
  - ^ (Gen 37:10 KJ) And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

### **B. JOSEPH'S DREAMS**

1. Prophetic Dreams
  - ^ (Gen 37:7 KJ) For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.
  - ^ (Gen 37:9 KJ) And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.
  - ^ (Gen 37:8 KJ) And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

2. Brother's Reaction to Joseph

- ^ Hated him ... 37:4 ... hated him yet the more 37:5 ... yet more :8
- ^ (Gen 37:11 KJ) And his brethren **envied him**; but his father observed the saying.
- ^ (Gen 37:18 KJ) And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to **slay him**.

C. TEMPTATIONS AT HOME

1. To Be Partial

- ^ Jacob created problems for Joseph - being partial

2. To Be Jealous

- ^ Joseph's brothers were Jealous - of father's actions and of Joseph's dreams - envious

3. To Be Envious

- ^ (Gen 37:11 KJ) And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

4. Home ought to be a place away from temptations

- ^ Private place often leads to major sin problems

5. Lack of appreciation for their brother Joseph

II. TEMPTATION WHEN SOLD INTO SLAVERY

A. TO BECOME SOUR ON FAMILY LIFE

1. Sold by his brothers

- ^ Family turned on him

B. TO BE SOUR ON RELIGION

- ^ Possible to feel God has forsaken you
- ^ Why try?
- ^ How could he see God's plan for him
- ^ Do not feel appreciated

C. JOSEPH SHOW HOW TO HANDLE BAD CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Trust in God

- ^ (Psa 37:1 KJ) A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. ( 37:2 ) For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. ( 37:3 ) Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

2. Joseph's prosperity

- ^ **Prosperity** = 06743 tsalach ꝛ AV - prosper 44, come 6, prosperous 5, come mightily 2, effected 1, good 1, meet 1, break out 1, went over 1, misc 3; 65
- ꝛ 2) to advance, prosper, make progress, succeed, be profitable to prosper to make prosperous, bring to successful issue, cause to prosper 2b2) to show or experience prosperity, prosper
- ^ (Gen 39:2 KJ) And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3. Aware God was with Joseph

- ^ (Gen 39:3 KJ) And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

## II. JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION IN HIS MASTER'S HOUSE

### A. THE WICKED WIFE OF POTIPHAR

#### 1. A lustful woman

- ^ (Gen 39:7 KJ) And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, **Lie with me.**
- ^ (Gen 39:10 KJ) And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph **day by day**, that he hearkened not unto her, **to lie by her, or to be with her.**
- ^ (Gen 39:12 KJ) And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

### B. THE RIGHTEOUS SERVANT JOSEPH

#### 1. He Said No!

- ^ (Gen 39:8 KJ) But **he refused**, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; (39:9 ) There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he **kept back** any thing from me but **thee, because** thou art **his wife**: how then can I do **this great wickedness, and sin against God?**
- ^ (Gen 39:10 KJ) And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph **day by day**, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.
- ^ (Gen 39:12 KJ) And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: **and he left** his garment in her hand, **and fled, and got him out.**

### C. POTIPHAR BELIEVES A LIE

#### 1. His wife's lie

- ^ (Gen 39:17 KJ) And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: (Gen 39:18 KJ) And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

#### 2. Believing his wife's lie

- ^ (Gen 39:19 KJ) And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. (Gen 39:20 KJ) And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

### D. HOW JOSEPH SURVIVED THIS SET-BACK

#### 1. God continues to be with Joseph

- ^ (Gen 39:2 KJ) And the **LORD was with Joseph**, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
- ^ (Gen 39:3 KJ) And his master saw **that the LORD was with him**, and that the **LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.**

#### 2. Joseph receives God's mercy and Favor

- ^ (Gen 39:21 KJ) **But the LORD was with Joseph**, and showed him **mercy**, and gave him **favour** in the sight of the keeper of the prison.
- ^ (Gen 39:23 KJ) The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the **LORD was with him**, and that which he did, the **LORD made it to prosper.**

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Joseph did not grieve over the wrong he faced in his life
2. Joseph realized the good way is not always the easy way
3. Joseph was able to always look forward not dwelling on the hard past
4. It was bad to be in prison but Joseph's spirit was not shackled
5. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt - Joseph was not set on revenge/ to get even!
6. Joseph practiced forgiveness all his life
  - ^ His brothers .... Potiphar's wife .... Potiphar ..... the butler
7. He was able to see God directly involved with his life
  - ^ (Gen 45:5 KJ) Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: **for God did send me before you to preserve life.** ..... (Gen 45:7 KJ) And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. (Gen 45:8 KJ) So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.
8. Joseph was able to look at the good that had been accomplished - not at the mistreatment he had suffered

# JOSEPH'S TEMPTATIONS

## AT JOSEPH'S HOME

*Gen. 37:8*

## WHEN SOLD AS SLAVE

*Gen. 39:1*

## IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE

*Gen. 39:7*

*Good Way is Not Always Easy  
Not Good to Dwell On The Past  
Practicing Forgiveness  
Seeing God Involved in Our Life  
Look at The Good Accomplished*

