



Tested and Tried

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 39 – Week of June 4th, 2023

1. If God is for you, no one can stand against you

We continue the story of Joseph, as he is brought into the service of Potiphar. As the captain of Pharaoh's guards, Potiphar was a powerful and influential man. Even though he was in a new place, the Lord was still with Joseph. The Lord blessed all that Joseph did, as he succeeded at whatever his hands touched. This caused Joseph to gain promotion and trust within Potiphar's house. Soon enough Joseph was the overseer of the entire household. Nearly everything was placed under his authority. Even though Joseph is a slave in a foreign land, he still succeeds mightily. Why? Because the Lord was with him. In all times, and in all things, the Lord is sovereign. Through His powerful goodness, He is able to provide for His people. We see that even in an undesirable situation like Joseph's that nothing can stand against the favor of God.

2. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?

Joseph, in the moment of his success, is confronted with temptation. The wife of Potiphar propositions him. She requests that Joseph lie with her. In this instance, Joseph could have rationalized the temptation. He could have constructed a perspective on why it was justified to do as he was asked. Instead, Joseph outright denies the request. He points to two reasons why he chose this course of action. First, complying would be a betrayal of the trust that his master had placed in him. Potiphar had not kept anything from Joseph except his wife. To breach that trust would be a terrible violation. Second, and most importantly, to indulge the temptation would be a great wickedness against God. Joseph refused to sin against God or against Potiphar, and so refused the request of Potiphar's wife. Even though Joseph did the right and honorable thing, the result was that he was imprisoned. But the Lord showed him steadfast love, and gave him

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Even though God is with us, we are still susceptible to temptation. Our enemy is cunning and persistent, and so we must be on guard. The Lord is our defender and our strength, and we can turn to Him during those moments. He will provide a way out from under the temptation.

Heart

We must guard our hearts. So often, temptation is nurtured within us, until it has fully developed into a seemingly overwhelming force. We, like Joseph, need to give no grounds to temptation within us, and remove ourselves from it.

Hands

Equip and sharpen the Sword of the Spirit. Apply wisdom and avoid opportunities for temptation to strike. If tempted, remove yourself from it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Shane Farewell Party
6/11 @ 1pm

favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. Like his time in Potiphar's house, the Lord blessed everything he did, and Joseph was given authority within the prison.

3. How to win against temptation

a. Forge a forceful argument using the God's Word

We must know God's Word in order to apply God's Word. While sometimes the Sword of the Spirit is used against Satan and his minions, it is most often used against our own selves. The most potent thing that we can do is to develop our knowledge and familiarity with this weapon, and to apply it liberally to temptation.

b. Avoid tempting situations

A practical strategy is to also deny temptation the opportunity for battle. Applying wisdom and discipline, it is often ideal to simply avoid situation in which temptation is found.

c. Flee temptation

At times, we cannot avoid temptation. However, we can learn from Joseph's story that at times the best strategy is to flee. Removing ourselves from the situation is often the wise move to make in the moment.

Read Genesis 39

1. Pastor Jan had mentioned that temptation is a training ground. What does that mean? How does temptation refine our faith? How do we balance training in temptation and fleeing from it?
2. Looking at the text, how does Joseph view the offer made by Potiphar's wife? How does Joseph's framing of the proposition help him resist temptation? How can we apply this process to our own lives?
3. Joseph gained favor in Potiphar's eyes because he saw that the Lord was with Joseph. What did it mean that the Lord was with Joseph? What would this look like in someone around you today?
4. Is it a sin to be tempted? Why or why not? What scriptural evidence would we use to clarify the issue?
5. **Read Colossians 3:12-17** How is Joseph's conduct and work ethic in line with what Paul writes? How can our own daily lives and work be changed to more reflect these principles?
6. The result of Joseph's resistance to Potiphar's wife was that he was imprisoned. In other words, the outcome of his righteous conduct was that he was seemingly punished. In our own lives, how do we respond to these types of scenarios? What ways do we encourage one another? What do we see in the text that can encourage us?
7. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13** What can we learn about temptation from this passage? What important warning or instruction is given in this scripture?