

LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION | GENESIS 38-39 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 4/7/2024

* I. Judah FELL Into Sin (38) | II. Joseph FLED From Sin (39)

INTRO: Jumping back into the book of Genesis, we will cover two chapters today. We left off with *Joseph being sold away into Egypt* (Ch. 37). But now we see sandwiched in-between Joseph's story is what is called *the Judah-Interlude* (Ch. 38). When contrasted with (Ch. 39), I see a theme revealing how Judah and Joseph dealt with temptation at difficult times in their lives. – So, I've entitled this message: **LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION (Genesis 38-39)** – ***Temptation is something that all of us face!** It is not a question of *"IF"* we will be tempted, but rather *"WHEN!"* This is why Jesus taught his disciples to pray this daily: **"And do not lead us into temptation But deliver us from the evil one..." (Matt 6:13)** – Let's examine Judah's circumstance

I. JUDAH FELL INTO SIN (Gen. 38) – The Judah-Incident has seemingly odd placement, but actually fits into the narrative historically. The phrase *"at that time"* confirms this. With Joseph now gone, it is most likely that Judah was next in line to assume the firstborn rights since His three older brothers were out of favor with Jacob. But this chapter shows that even JUDAH, the tribe from whom the Messiah would eventually come, was imperfect in his ways also! – Judah lead himself into temptation when he *"Separated himself from his brothers."* **He chose to Live amongst the Canaanites**, which brought a daily temptation to live like his neighbors!

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A. Judah's Family Had Issues (1-12) – *It was time for Judah sow his seeds!* But notice that there is NO MENTION of Judah seeking God's direction for a family! – So, one day he visited a nearby friend *Hirah the Adullamite*, and **SAW** a certain *"Canaanite"* woman, which would soon lead him the saddest episodes in his life. (*Unequally Yoked Relationship lead to this!*)

1. Starting a Family (1-5) – *Starting a family is a natural course in life*, but a family that does not fear God will soon experience hardship. – The daughter of Shua immediately bore Judah 3 sons: Er, Onan, and Shelah. – What happened next hints that his entire family REJECTED GOD!

2. Struggles with Family (6-12) – Judah seemingly did NOT want to make the mistake of allowing his firstborn son to marry wrongly (*as he presumably did*) **so he chose a wife for Er (6).**

a. **JUDAH'S sinful sons were EXECUTED BY GOD for their wicked practices!**

- ER's wickedness is not mentioned (7), but it may have had something to do with Judah forcing him to marry *"in the Lord,"* or because he favored his mothers Canaanite religion.
- JUDAH'S then forced a **Levirate Marriage Rite** upon his second born son ONAN, so as to raise up an heir to preserve the Judaic line (8). – (*cf. Deut 25:5-10; Matt 22:24*)
- **But ONAN had different plans than his father (9)**. – *Though he lie with Tamar*, his plans purposely prevented her pregnancy. His actions were displeasing to the Lord, so the Lord killed him also! – Onan's Sin was his deliberate refusal to raise us a perpetual heir to his dead brother. There is such a thing as **Sin leading to death (1 John 5:16-17)**.

b. **JUDAH'S obligation to TAMAR (11)** – He may have grown suspicious, as he seemingly **feared for his 3rd son's life!** Er's Dead, Onan's dead...maybe you should go back home! –

- He had no intention of allowing Shelah to follow the Levirate duties, so he sent her away, hoping that she would forget family connection. – While Tamar’s role seems rather secondary in this story, she later causes Judah to fall into sin!

c. **JUDAH’s wife also Died! (12)** – He mourned for a time, but to fully recover from his grief, he goes back to hang out with *his PAGAN PAL Hirah at Timnah*. – NOW, Sheep-Shearing time was usually a time of festivity and making merry, AND **Timnah was a place of temptation**, where **SAMSON** in (Jud 14:1) later SAW a philistine women. (BE CAREFUL!)

P/A – He went there to forget about his family struggles and pain. – At DIFFICULT times like this in life, we too need to pray: *Lord, Lead me not into temptation!*

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B. Judah’s Sin of Incest (13-26) – *Caught off-guard, Judah falls into prostitution and unknowingly incest.*

1. Selfish Actions (13-16a) – Tamar did not forget Judah and Shelah and she still greatly desired a descendant of Judaic lineage (13). So, Tamar resolved to **SUBTERFUGE**, i.e., *she disguised herself as a prostitute to trap Judah! (14)*. – At this point, **Judah’s EYES lead him into temptation**: The Lust in his eyes lead to being Deceived by his own eyes, *not knowing that it was his own daughter-in-law!* (Tamar knew that men struggle with the lust of the eyes – what they see!)

2. Seeking Payment (16b-23) – Judah’s sin **progressed** upon his solicitation, Tamar’s sin was **expressed** with negotiation! – James warns of this! (James 1:15-16) *But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

- She cunningly negotiated for **distinct identification items** for their redemption value!
- Tamar’s payment was not just the Items, but her Pregnancy (18)! We are told that she conceived...as desired. WOW! *Notice that she immediately put off the veil (19)*
- Judah’s friend was sent to retrieve his pledge items (20-23), but the Harlot could not be found! Judah did not want to be shamed, so he left the items to her and tried to forget!

3. Sin Exposed (24-26) – When *Tamar’s pregnancy was found out*, Judah immediately **JUDGED HER (24)**, summoning her to be **BURNED for her immorality!** (wow! John 8:7...cast the 1st stone!) – When confronted, *Tamar wasn’t worried at all, she simply exposed Judah with evidence!* –

- Judah’s jaw must have instantly dropped to the ground! *She exposed his neglect of the whole matter!* – Being guilty, Judah concluded that *Tamar was **MORE RIGHTEOUS in her dealings*** re: inheritance laws that He was! He immediately rescinded the death penalty!
- Judah **FELL into Sin, and it was EXPOSED!**
- Clearly stated is that **Judah never knew Tamar sexually again!** – For the Record, **TAMAR’S** name means *“Palm Tree,”* which *symbolizes flourishing victory!* – Of all the family members she was the one most concerned with obtaining a godly heritage...wow! – (Psalm 92:12), *“the righteous will flourish like a palm tree.”*

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C. Judah's Unexpected Twins (27-30) – Instead of consequence, **God grants twins!** Little **PEREZ** “**breaks through**” because of **God's Redemptive GRACE!** – Even though Tamar and Judah were **hardly models of holiness**, God took the child of this immoral circumstance and placed him in the lineage of the Messiah, through Boaz and Ruth to King David! (**Matt 1:3; Luke 3:33**)

Chapter Thought: (Rom 3:23) says, “*...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*” – I'm glad to know that God can overrule man's mistakes in their flesh! **Just don't abuse His Grace!**

Judah Falling into Sin is now contrasted by...

II. JOSEPH FLED FROM SIN (Gen. 39:1-23) – As Joseph adjusts to his new environment, he also experienced temptations which parallel those of Adam, Eve, and Jesus (**Gen. 3:6; Luke 4:1-12; 1 John 2:16**) – In the areas of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

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A. The Temptation of SUCCESS (1-6a) – This first temptation deals with the pride of life!

1. Joseph's Success (1-2) – Focus now returns to Joseph who was sold into the hands of an Egyptian officer, **Potiphar (1)**. – We're told that **Joseph prospered in his new surroundings** because **“God was with him!”** – As a result, we're told that he was a **“successful man” (2)** – **Sometimes success is the greatest test of all!** When we are doing well, we tend to forget about God... We tend to become prideful, but Joseph did not! (*Who do you attribute your success to?*)

2. Joseph's Authority (3-6a) – **His witness was noticed by his master (3)**, he was therefore **promoted to overseer** of Potiphar's entire household (4). His master recognized that God's blessings were upon his entire household **because of Joseph (5)**, so he placed everything under Joseph's care **(6a)**. – Walking with God and having Integrity oftentimes result in favor, no matter your circumstances. Your Attitude also plays a big part in **unfavorable situations!**

P/A – Joseph was the Ideal Worker. – As Christians, we should exemplify the greatest attitude and work ethic in any employment scenario! (**2 Cor 9:8**) **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.** (*God's gives us the grace and the supply to become a good workers! Do we want to?*)

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B. The Temptation of SEDUCTION (6b-10) – This next temptation deals with the lust of the eyes! – A successful man is often considered attractive in the eyes of a woman. Joseph was hit with a **double whammy** because **“he was also handsome in appearance” (6b)**.

1. Joseph became a TARGET for Seduction (7) – **She cast longing eyes at him**, enticing him daily, using comments to lure him in! – **KING SOLOMON TOLD HIS SON** to **“Receive his words and Treasure his Commands” (Prov 2:1)**. He also taught him that when **Wisdom, Knowledge, Discretion** and **Understanding** is learned **(10-11)**, it would **“Deliver [him] from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words” (Prov 2:16)**. – All of **Proverbs Ch. 5** warn of the **Peril of Adultery**.

2. Joseph REFUSED his masters wife repeatedly (8-12) – **HE SAID NO!** – She may have been beautiful and tempting and he **probably could have gotten away with it**, but **Joseph was not ruled by THE LUST OF HIS EYES**. He was a **man of integrity** who possessed ethical and moral convictions!

- **He was Governed by HONOR! (8)** – i.e., **He valued his master’s TRUST in him!** – Even though he had access to everything, he knew that **POTIPHAR’S WIFE WAS OFF LIMITS!**
- **He was Governed by HOLINESS! (9)** – His **primary concern** for abstaining from sexual sin was rooted in his **FEAR OF GOD!** He said, *“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God!”* – *Holiness is more concerned with God’s Honor more than anything else!*
- **He was Pursued daily, but HE DID NOT give in (10-12)** – This is the type of temptation that **you cannot play with, or it will take you out!** **Avoid it all together!** (tt. James 1:12-15)

– Potiphar’s wife was soon **done with flirtatious words**, so she literally attacked Joseph! (11-12) – She physically and verbally pressed him so hard that Joseph only had one way to respond... RUN! – **It is harder to RUN from temptation than to YIELD to temptation!** – *But Joseph’s response aligns with N.T. doctrine on the matter (1 Cor 13:13-14) No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.* *What’s your greatest temptation? Do you look for God’s Escape?*

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C. The Temptation of SECLUSION (13-23) – This last temptation becomes long-term, because **Josephs freedom** gets taken away because of his master’s wife’s accusations!

1. Her Reaction (13-15) – The **intense longing of Potiphar’s spouse** abruptly transformed into the **fury of a rejected woman!** Shamed and embarrassed, she cried out to nearby servants and formed a story! (*Because Joseph RESISTED temptation, he was slandered, lied about, and eventually imprisoned... and he never tried to defend himself! Does this remind you of someone? – JESUS!*)

2. Her Report (16-18) – **Joseph’s garment** was used as credible evidence against him. This in **now the second time that Joseph’s garment got him into trouble!** – As she explained the fabricated story to her husband, she even casts blame on him for *“bringing the Hebrew servant in to mock us,”* as if all were effected by his unrighteous character! – Notice that she mentions that **“He Fleed”** 3 x’s (13,15,18). **She was offended at Josephs’ refusal!** (*He fled!*)

3. His Master’s Response (19-20) – As he heard the report, it says that **“his anger was aroused,”** but toward who? – He was a man of position and authority, possessing good character judgment when selecting Joseph. **Surely, he knew his wife’s character!** – **Joseph’s witness, favor, integrity and godly favor did NOT match up with her accusations...** so He then placed Joseph in the political prison that he was in charge of, not a criminal prison!

4. His LORD’S Favor (21-23) – **Joseph was wrongly imprisoned!** (Ps 105:18-19) tells us that **this was all ordained by the hand of the Lord** so that **His divine purpose would be accomplished** in the world and amid His people! – **The Lord NEVER abandoned Joseph**, but instead granted **Mercy, Favor, Position, Authority and Prosperity... all while in Jail!**

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: Joseph overcame temptation because he did not want to sin against God! Judah collapsed when temptation presented itself because he wanted to satisfy his flesh! – **When Temptation comes our way, we must choose what type of vessel we want to be** (tt.2 Tim 2:20-26)