

The Joseph Story

Part: 2

Genesis 39:1-11

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. **3** When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, **4** Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. **5** From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. **6** So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Vs. 1

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

The name Potiphar means devoted to the sun. It was a name connected with the Egyptian religious system.

He was captain of the guard: The title means Potiphar was chief of police, or probably more precisely, Potiphar was head of Pharaoh's personal security force.

- Joseph was sold to him as a slave. He seemed to have no control over his own destiny, but was bought and sold like a piece of property.

Vs. 2-4

The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. **3** When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, **4** Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

There is an old quote that I believe is true:

*“You don’t determine your destiny,
you determine the choices you make,
and the choices you make determine your destiny.”*

- For Joseph this couldn’t be more true...
- He had no control of his own destiny...
- But as Joseph walked with God, he chose to serve the Lord in the midst of a difficult situation, God was with him and continued to bless him...
- It is amazing how God is not moved by the works of man... God can even use it for good...
- What Joseph experienced was probably much worse than anything we will ever experience, yet God was with him, and blessed him even as a slave...

Take away: If God is with you, that doesn’t change because of a good day or a bad day. If God is with you, it doesn’t change because of how people treat you. If God is with you, He will continue to walk with you regardless of the circumstances...

Vs. 5,6

5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. **6** So he left in Joseph's care everything he had...

- God's favor and blessing on Joseph's life transferred to everything Joseph touched...
- Potiphar trusted Joseph:
 1. Because everything Joseph did, God blessed...
 2. Joseph was Trustworthy...

Remember what God said to Abraham

Genesis 12

2

“I will make you into a great nation,
 and **I will bless you;**
 I will make your name great,
 and **you will be a blessing.**

3

I will bless those who bless you,
 and whoever curses you I will curse;
**and all peoples on earth
 will be blessed through you.”**

God said to Abraham I will bless you... and you will be a blessing...
 and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Note:

Christians should be the best employees in the work force.

Christians should be the most trustworthy employees.

Christians should be the least complaining employees.

Christians should be the most honest employees.

Why? because this is God's Character in them. (Hard working, trustworthy, joyful and encouraging, honest.)

Because Joseph demonstrated Godly character, he always rises to the top even when people tried to destroy him.

Vs. 6-12

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, **7** and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" **8** But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. **9** No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" **10** And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. **12** She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

- The Devil is such a manipulator; If he can't get Joseph to curse his brothers he will try to get him bed with his master's wife...
- Potiphar's wife is perfect illustration of how the devil works...
- He will flirt and entice, to convince someone that he is on their side and if they don't he will turn with the intention to destroy...
- **Rule #1:** Never trust the Devil and never compromise your character and walk with God for anyone...

Notice how Joseph responds;

Vs. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

- In the midst of temptation, Joseph thinks about honor and the fear of the Lord... Joseph has a God conscience...
- Joseph never fixes his eyes on his circumstances, he always keeps his eyes on God...

Proverbs 5

My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,

2

that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.

3

For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;

4

but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

5

Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6

She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

7

Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.

8

Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,

9

lest you lose your honor to others
and your dignity to one who is cruel,

10

lest strangers feast on your wealth
and your toil enrich the house of another.

— — —

21

For your ways are in full view of the Lord,
and he examines all your paths.

22

The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them;
the cords of their sins hold them fast.

23

For lack of discipline they will die,
led astray by their own great folly.

- What saved Joseph was, he never got his eyes on his circumstances, he always keeps his eyes on God...

1 John 2

16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. **17** The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Notice a pattern developing around Joseph:

1st Joseph faces the pride test

- In the beginning, Joseph finds favor from his father over his brothers...
- Joseph is given dreams where he is exalted over his brothers and even his entire family...
- I believe it's fair to say, Joseph didn't do to well with this test...
- Joseph became puffed up and shared causing jealousy...
- One thing that is good about God is he never accepts a failed test, He just allows you to take it over...

2nd Joseph faces the lust of the flesh test

Vs. 7 "...his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

- If Joseph had slept with Potiphar's wife it could have cost him his life...

- Potiphar was gracious to through Joseph in prison based upon the false accusations made about him...

How much is the Cloak Worth?

- For Joseph it was a picture of earthly possession...
- Maybe a picture of his rank and authority...
- It definitely held Joseph's identity...

The Better question is how much is the Favor and Blessing of God Worth?

- The Favor and Blessing of God is worthy more than anything of earthly possession...
 - It's worth more than the favor of man...
 - There is nothing of sentimental value that can come close...
 - Our identity is much better in God than in this world...
-
- Joseph's obedience to God cost him something in regard to earthly things, but it protected something for him in regard to God being with him and raising him up...

Vs. 13-23

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, **14** she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. **15** When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. **17** Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me

to make sport of me. **18** But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. **20** Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

- Joseph was 17yrs old when he was sold by his brothers as a slave (Genesis 37:2) and he was 30yrs old when he was released from prison and put in charge of Egypt (Genesis 41:46).
- Some Jewish commentators, sighting from certain sources, believe that Joseph was imprisoned for twelve years, meaning he only served one year in Potiphar’s house.
- First Joseph’s brothers through Joseph in a pit
- Then they sell him as a slave
- He serves some time as a slave
- Now Joseph is in prison
- Not just any prison but the one where the king’s prisoners were confined...
- This is proof not to confuse every situation you face as reflection on who God is...
- Joseph serving a good God, endured unthinkable circumstances...
- When we think of hardship in the Bible often we think of Job, but I believe what Joseph endured was much worse...
- Like with Job it didn’t make sense what Joseph had to endure...
- Like with Job the story doesn’t end in defeat...

20b But while Joseph was there in the prison, **21** the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. **22** So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those

held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. **23** The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Closing:

1. As I thought through the story of Joseph it made my heart thankful for the Lord.
2. In every circumstance God has been with me.
3. Can we thank God today?
4. It doesn't matter what season you are in, if God is with you in it.

Take away:

2. God knows what the end looks like, we don't.
3. It's hard to believe but getting Joseph to Egypt was God's doing, not his brothers.
4. When God calls you to something great, getting there is usually not easy. Every difficult thing Joseph faces was needed to prepare him for the palace.

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