

Genesis 39

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SERMON NOTES

Genesis

In the beginning...

Genesis 39

What can we do about temptation?

“The typical temptation of the young is lust; of the middle-aged, ambition; and of the elderly, bitterness. Actually, all three drives are similar and related: ambition is a refined lust, bitterness a disappointed one.”

- Frederick Dale Bruner

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What can we do about temptation?

1. The universality of temptation
2. The variety of responses
 - We can recognize (vs deny or ignore it)
 - We can remember (who we belong to)
 - We can resist (with the Word/in power of Spirit)
 - We can run (as Joseph did)
 - We can fall (as have all but one)
3. The safety and power of God’s presence

“You are absolutely helpless. The enemy will attack. Temptation will come. But left to yourself, you are like a tumbleweed in a tornado, a handkerchief in a hurricane. The lion will roar, the viper will strike, the flaming arrows of temptation will fly, and you will fall—apart from grace. That is why you need God. Beware of self-confidence.”

- Brian G. Hedges, *Watchfulness*

“For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

- *Galatians 6:8*

“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

- *James 1:14-15*

“Those who let God be God get off the conveyor belt of emotion and desire when it first starts to move toward the buzzsaw of sin. They do not wait until it is moving so fast they cannot get off of it. Their aim is not to avoid sin, but to avoid temptation – the inclination to sin.”

- Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*

“No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

- *1 Corinthians 10:13*

“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.”

- *Psalms 73:28*

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

- *Matthew 6:13*

“Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

- *Matthew 26:41*

“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you. Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. To Him be dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

- *1 Peter 5:6-11*

*“The longer you linger near temptation, the stronger it grows.
The longer you give into sin, the easier it is to keep sinning.
The longer you harbor unrepentant sin, the more calloused you become.
The longer you remain calloused, the further you drift from God.
Flee temptation.
The quicker you look to Jesus, the less appealing a temptation becomes.
The closer you walk with Jesus, the sweeter His presence becomes.
The deeper you hope in the return of Jesus, the more like Him you become.
Let us not only flee from temptation, but in faith flee to Jesus.”*

- Garrett Kell