



DETOURS : THE PALACE

¹ Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ² The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵ From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶ So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹ He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" – *Genesis 39:1-9 (ESV)*

1. There's a PROBLEM with the PALACE.
2. The PALACE can be more dangerous than the PIT.
 - a. There's a danger of COMFORT.
 - b. There's a danger of CONFORMITY.
 - c. There's a danger of COMPROMISE.

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

REFLECTION

- In your own life, have you found it more difficult to follow Christ when you are comfortable or when you are going through trials?
- Regardless of what you are going through right now, in the USA we are all living in a palace of sorts (at least compared to many others around the world). What are some of the dangers of comfort, conformity, and/or compromise that you face right now?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read *Genesis 39:7-12*. Can you imagine any excuses that Joseph could have used to try to justify lying with Potiphar's wife? Did Joseph entertain any excuses? What did he do to resist temptation?
- Read *1 Peter 5:6-9*.
 - What does it mean that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion" (v. 8)?
 - What should we do to resist the devil? (Hint: Each verse has a different command.) How does each of these commands help us resist the temptation? What does each of these commands look like when we are in a place of comfort or a place of affliction?
- Read *Genesis 4:7*.
 - What does it mean for sin to be "crouching at your door?" Why is this situation precipitated by doing wrong?
 - What do you think it means to "rule over" sin?
- Read *Romans 6:6-18*.
 - How have we been set free from sin (v. 6-7)? What does it mean?
 - For those who have been set free from sin, what command are we given (v. 12-13)?
 - How can someone set free from sin, still behave as a slave to sin (v. 16)? How can we ensure we do not act this way (v. 17-18)?