

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

07.21.2024 | Persistent Temptation and the Presence of God | Proverbs 39 | Ben Day, Senior Pastor

If you have a Bible this morning, I want to invite you to turn with me to Genesis chapter 39. We've been studying the story of Joseph, and last week, if you were here, you know that we left off at the end of Genesis chapter 37. Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt, and Genesis 39 picks up there as Joseph is in Egypt, serving as a servant in Potiphar's house. Now, before we read Genesis 39, I just want to say a brief word about not covering Genesis 38 in this series that we are doing. If you read Genesis 38, you'll find that it's kind of a break from Joseph's story in some ways to speak about a really terrible circumstance, really terrible, sinful action that happens. And I think it's really important just to mention that we're not covering Genesis 38 in the series simply because it doesn't pertain to the story of Joseph.

I mention that because sometimes if people were to read Genesis 38, they might look at me and say, oh, you know what, I see why you skipped that one. That's a really bad chapter. I wouldn't want to preach on that if I was you. And to that, I just want to say, I actually don't think that's a good reason for us to skip over parts of the Bible. I think one thing I love about the Bible is how honest it is. You'll find that throughout the Bible, there's really no heroes in the story except for God, that everyone who we see in Scripture fails in some way, makes mistakes in some way. The Bible is very honest about people. So Genesis 38 is a very honest account of what happens in the life of Joseph's brother Judah. One thing that I think is just worth noting is that what we've been talking about in Joseph's story is the fact that God's providence and God's grace works in spite of human sin. And sometimes even using sinful action to accomplish God's good purposes. And that's actually what we see in Genesis 38. In one way, it is connected to the story of Joseph merely because it runs along the same themes. If you just look at the heading in your Bible for Genesis 38, it probably says something like Judah and Tamar. And this is a story about a very sinful account that happens between Judah and Tamar. But one thing that's really interesting is that if you fast forward to the New Testament in Matthew chapter one, you will find Judah and Tamar's names listed again in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. And what I think the Bible is doing there is showing us that even in a terribly sinful action like what happens in Genesis 38, it will not thwart God's plans. God had promised that a Messiah was going to come and he even uses sometimes sinful actions to bring about his good plans like the bringing forth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. And so I do think Genesis 38 is a chapter that we should not avoid. It's one that we should read. We should see how God works even in the dark places of the Bible.

But because it does not really pertain to the story of Joseph, we're going to fast forward to Genesis 39 and we're going to pick up in Joseph's story as he is now in Egypt in Potiphar's house. So I'm going to read our passage for us this morning, which is Genesis 39, I'm going to read the whole chapter. It says, "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. "The Lord was with Joseph and he became a successful man. "He was in the house of his Egyptian master. "His master saw that the Lord was with him "and that the Lord caused all that he did "to succeed in his hands. "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. "From the time that he made him overseer in his house "and over all that he had, "the Lord blessed the Egyptians house for Joseph's sake. "The blessing of the Lord was on all that he had "in house and field. "So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge. "Because of him, he had no concern about anything "but the food he ate. "And Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. "And after a time, his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph "and said, lie with me. "But he refused and said to his master's wife, "behold, because of me, my master has no concern "about anything in the house. "He has put everything that he has in my charge. "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? "And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, "he would not listen to her, to lie beside her "or to be with her. "But one day, when he went into the house to do his work "and none of the men of the house was there in that house, "she caught him by his garment saying, lie with me. "But he left his garment in her hand and fled "and got out of the house. "As soon as she saw that he had left his garment "in her hand and then fled out of the house, "she called to the men of her household and said to them, "see, he has brought us a Hebrew to laugh at us. "He came in to lie with me and I cried out "with a loud voice. "And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice "and cried out, he left his garment beside me "and fled and got out of the house. "Then she laid up his garment by her "until his master came home. "And she told him the same story saying, "the Hebrew servant whom you have brought among us "came in to me to laugh at me. "But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, "he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house. "Soon as his master heard the words "that his wife spoke to him, "this is the way that your servant treated me, "his anger was

kindled. "Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, "the place where the king's prisoners were confined. "He was there in prison. "But the Lord was with Joseph "and showed him steadfast love, "gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. "And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge "of all the prisoners who were in the prison. "Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. "The keeper of the prison paid no attention "to anything that was in Joseph's charge "because the Lord was with him. "And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed." Now what I found is that when people come across this story in Genesis chapter 39, so often our attention tends to get drawn to the middle of the story and this interaction between Joseph and Potiphar's wife. In fact, in my Bible, the heading for the chapter is Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Some people even call this chapter the temptation of Joseph. I think this chapter really is all about temptation. If you go back to Genesis 37, that's really a chapter that's all about sin being done to Joseph. But chapter 39 is really more about the opportunity for Joseph to indulge in sin, the temptation to sin that is before Joseph. But I do think it's kind of interesting. One thing that I hope you'll see today is that I don't think that this incident, this account with Potiphar's wife, is the only temptation that Joseph faces in this passage. In fact, I think temptation is consistently before him. But also, if we focus on just the temptation, even if we find multiple temptations in the passage, I think we might still miss a major part of the story.

You know, in narratives, in the Bible especially, a lot of times the author of the story will tell you, give you a hint, what is the main idea of the story by a word or a phrase that is repeated? Kind of gives you a clue that this is something the author wants me to take away. And I want you to notice at the beginning, and at the end of the story, there is something that is repeated that is worth drawing our attention to. So in verse two, it says that the Lord was with Joseph. He became a successful man. In verse three, it says, his master saw that the Lord was with him. In two verses right there at the beginning of the story, the author wants us to see that God's presence is with Joseph. God's favor is with Joseph, thank you. His presence is there with him while he's in Potiphar's house, it's causing him to succeed. And then Joseph faces these temptations. But then notice how the story ends. It says in verse 21, but the Lord was with Joseph, showed him steadfast love and gave him favor. Verse 23, the keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge because the Lord was with him. Really seems that the author of this story wants us to grasp the fact that God's presence was with Joseph. I think that's important because sometimes we might look at the story and we might think, wow, Joseph was a man of great character. He was a man of strong willpower to resist these temptations, to resist this temptation with Potiphar's wife. So while it is true that Joseph had to work, that he did have to take action, what the author of the story wants us to know is that it was the Lord who was with Joseph. This is the reason that he was able to succeed. This is the reason he was able to resist temptation because of God's presence with him.

Therefore, when we read this story, we should not just look at it and say, well, how could I be more like Joseph, someone of self-control and strong willpower and the ability to say no to bad things. But rather, we should look at the story and say, God's presence is what kept Joseph from sin. God's presence is what led Joseph in his success. It is God's presence that is key to me resisting sin. It is God's presence that is instrumental in me walking in the ways of the Lord. This is what I want us to take away. In fact, I was just going to summarize kind of our main idea for this morning, what you'll see in your bulletin, it would be this. The key to resisting temptation is to be more captivated by God's presence than the world's pleasures. The key to resisting temptation is to be more captivated by God's presence than the world's pleasures. When we face temptation, is because in some way, the world is offering us something. The Bible says in the book of James, that's whenever our desires go after that thing, that we begin to be tempted and that's what gives birth to sin. What we need to recognize is that in the moments when there is something the world is offering us, some pleasure, some temptation, that even more close to us than that temptation is God's presence. That even more in front of us than that temptation might seem to be is God's presence near to us. This is why I've titled the sermon Persistent Temptation and the Presence of God.

Because I think the key for us to resisting temptation if we're following kind of Joseph's story is to be more captivated, more in awe of, more taken by the fact that God is present with us every step of the way rather than being captivated by what temptations and sins are around us. So I'm going to try to show you how we see this in Joseph's story and I want to do that by highlighting three different areas of temptation that Joseph faced. Again, I think we're often drawn to the middle of the story but I would put before you that there were actually kind of three areas in this chapter that Joseph faces temptation. And the first one is the temptation of success. I think the first temptation that we actually see Joseph begin to face in the story, even before this interaction with Potiphar's wife, is the temptation of success. So Genesis 39 begins by telling us that Joseph was brought down to Egypt. Now that might just be geographical language. Egypt was

south of where Joseph had been with his family. But I think it's also symbolic language. That it was said at the beginning of the story through dreams that Joseph was going to be lifted up. But so far at the beginning of the story all we've seen is Joseph brought down. He was brought down into a pit by his brothers. Now he is brought down to Egypt. He's in a foreign land. I mean you have to think, he doesn't speak the language. He doesn't know the people or the customs. He's 17 years old. Now he is a slave, a servant in the house of Potiphar. We're told that Potiphar is the captain of the guard but that might be underselling it a little bit. Potiphar seems to be one of the top ranking officials in Egypt which is really a world empire at the time. A very strong nation. So he finds himself as a form of a servant but also in the house of someone who's very important. And that's when his trajectory begins to change a little bit. Says that he begins to experience success precisely because the Lord was with him. Look at verses two and three again. It says the Lord was with Joseph and he became a successful man. He was in the house of his Egyptian master. Verse three, his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

So we're told right there that Joseph is now experiencing success. I mean he's a servant and he's a slave but he is succeeding in the work that is being given to him. And the narrator is drawing our attention to the fact that all the success is attributed to God's presence in his life. To God's favor on him. I wonder if that's how Joseph would have told the story. I mean couldn't you imagine, let's just say we were asking Joseph about his life and his time in Potiphar's house. Wouldn't it be tempting for Joseph to say, well you know what, I worked really hard. When everybody else took their lunch break, I didn't stop, I just kept working. I worked overtime and people noticed that they began to move me up. And I made a couple of good decisions, I was kind of savvy and so they began to trust me with a little bit more. I mean in some ways you can imagine Joseph telling the story this way because so oftentimes that's the way we tell the story, isn't it? People ask us about our successes and so often we attribute it to what we've done. Our hard work, our good efforts, our good decisions. And with that I think we begin to be faced with the temptation of success. I would say the temptation of success is the temptation to take credit for the things that you have accomplished, for the place that you are in. The temptation of success is to think that you are at the place that you are because of just your own efforts.

In the narrator of the story, the author Moses is really wanting us to see that it is only because of God's presence with him. It doesn't even say that like God and Joseph were this team working together for Joseph to succeed. Yes, again, Joseph has to work hard. Joseph has to make decisions but the author is very clear that's only because God was with him. It's only because God was blessing him in the way that he was. And it seems to me that Joseph actually recognizes this in his life. But Joseph I think actually resists the temptation of success because he recognizes that it was God's presence with him. We'll actually get to talk about this more in a couple of weeks as we see Joseph experience success once again. But one of the tests to see if you've fallen into the temptation of success I think is to see what are you doing with your position and your power, with your influence, with the success that you've had. What are you doing with those things that you now have because of your success? Are you using it to serve yourself or are you using it to bless others? It seems pretty clear in this story that Joseph's good success is a blessing to others. You notice it says in the story that Potiphar's house and his field, all that he had was being blessed. So much so that Potiphar said, "You can be in control of everything that I have." All he cared about was what he was going to eat. I mean, Joseph took care of everything else because God was not just giving Joseph success for his own blessing but God was blessing Joseph so that he might be a blessing to others. The success that Joseph is experiencing is benefiting those who are around him. And that's one of the keys that I think that you, key signs that you haven't fallen into the temptation of success is when you are using your position and your power and your influence, not just to be self-serving but to be serving to others, to use what you have been given to help others.

In fact, I think we get a little bit more of an insight into this in this interaction with Potiphar's wife. You notice when Potiphar's wife seeks to entice Joseph, this is what he says to her in verses eight and nine He says, "But he refused and he said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master is no concern "about anything in the house. "He has put everything that he has in my charge. "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?" It's kind of interesting as Joseph refused as Potiphar's wife, what is his logic? What has he appealed to? He actually appeals to his power and his position. Right, he speaks about all this power and this position that he's been given, which I think so many people would have referenced for a reason to indulge in the sin. Couldn't you just imagine someone saying, "Well, yeah, I've worked hard. "I've earned this. "I get to indulge in this for a little bit now, don't I?" You can imagine someone maybe saying, "Well, because of my power, "I could send out all the other servants "and make sure nobody would ever

find out about this." But Joseph, his thinking goes just the opposite. His power and his position does not put him in a position to abuse that power, to use it to serve himself, to take advantage of a situation. Why? Because he recognizes that God is with him, that God is watching him. How could I do this wickedness against God?

You see, the key to resisting the temptation of success is to recognize God's presence with you every step of the way, to recognize that, sure, you had to work hard, you had to make decisions and you had to take steps, but you only had those opportunities because of God. You only had those abilities because of God, to see his presence with you every step of the way and to be more captivated by his presence with you and the opportunities that your success presents to you. So Joseph seems to be aware of God's presence and it causes him to refuse Potiphar's wife, which actually leads us to the second area of temptation.

Not only did Joseph face the temptation of success, but Joseph faced the temptation of sex. That central part of the story is a temptation to indulge in sexual immorality. The author tells us that Joseph is successful, he's making all sorts of good choices, but he also tells us that he was handsome, he was good looking. It causes Potiphar's wife to cast her eyes upon him. She begins to entice him. Twice we see in our passage that it says, she says, "Lie with me." That's pretty direct, but if you actually go and read the Hebrew, it's actually a little bit even more direct and graphic what she is requesting and even commanding from Joseph. And Joseph does not give in to the temptation of sex. I believe the temptation of sex would be to participate in sexual intimacy outside of God's design. And again, it seems to be Joseph's awareness of God's presence in his life. Joseph being captivated by God's presence in his life that gives him the ability to resist this temptation. In fact, I think what we see from Joseph is both the reason to resist the temptation of sex, but also a plan for resisting really all temptation, but specifically the temptation of sex. So let's go back to what Joseph said to Potiphar's wife to see the reason that he resists. It says in verse nine, he said that Potiphar, 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?

I think with this explanation, Joseph actually gives us the reason for resisting the temptation of sex. One, we should resist the temptation of sex out of respect and care for other people. We should resist the temptation of sex because of our respect of other people who are made in God's image. Notice that he speaks about Potiphar and how generous Potiphar has been to him, how kind Potiphar has been to him, that he came in as this foreigner, this Hebrew slave, and now he says, I'm an equal with Potiphar, he's not withheld anything from me. It seems that Joseph has this respect for Potiphar that would lead him to resist this temptation. But it's something that should ground our resisting to the temptation of sex. You should resist the temptation toward sexual immorality with another person or lusting after another person out of respect for that person's spouse. You say, well, maybe they're single, they don't have a spouse. Well, they're future spouse. Or just the recognition out of respect that that is not your spouse. And Joseph has this recognition that this is Potiphar's wife, but he also has a respect for Potiphar's wife herself. Notice it's not just a respect for Potiphar that he appeals to, but I think even to her. He says, Potiphar hasn't refused anything from me except you because you are his wife. Joseph recognizes that Potiphar's wife is not some object for him to have. Every other thing Potiphar has been willing to share because they are all objects, they are all things that you can own, that you can share. But he recognizes that this woman is a person made in the image of God. This woman is a person who is the wife of another man. He would not disrespect her this way.

When we give into the temptation of sex and engage in sexual immorality with another person, enlisting after another person, I believe we are devaluing that person as being made in the image of God. When we go outside of God's design for what sex is meant to be, we are treating that person as if they are not made in God's image with the kindness and respect that he has called us to. But you see, it's also not just a respect for people, but it's also a respect for God. Notice that Joseph goes on this whole long list about who Potiphar is and what he has done and about how she is his wife. And he says, "How could I then do this terrible, wicked thing and sin against Potiphar?" Is that what he says? Sin against you, Potiphar's wife. No, he says, "How could I do this wickedness and sin against God?" Joseph recognizes that while he must respect people, and he should resist this temptation out of a care and a value of other people, it's also a respect for God, a recognition that God has designed sex to be engaged in a certain way, that he is going to understand that God has a design in his creation and that he is going to respect God's design for his life. That when you are faced with the choice, really in any temptation, but specifically in the temptation for sex, you have a choice. Are you going to live by God's design or live outside of God's design? Joseph here, he is so captivated by God's presence in his life. He recognizes that

God has been with him in those dreams from the beginning, as he was in the pit, as he's been taken down to Egypt, now in Potiphar's house, God is with him every step of the way. How could he sin against God?

When you are faced with the temptation of sex, being captivated by God's presence in your life, more than whatever pleasure is being offered to you, is the key to resisting that temptation. But not only does Joseph give us the reason, but he actually also gives us a plan, somewhat of a how-to really briefly. Notice what it says in verses 10 through 12. It says that she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. But one day when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment saying, lie with me. But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. Now, if you're keeping score at home, Joseph is now down two coats, right? In this story, one coat was taken by his brothers in the last chapter, and now a coat has been left with Potiphar's wife as he has fled. But that's a picture, I think, of the way that we are to resist really all temptation, but specifically the temptation to sex. And that would be, I think that there are times to fight and there are times to flee.

You know, they say when we meet conflict, everybody's natural reaction is to either fight or flight, right? I think what Joseph is saying here is actually both can be wise at times. There should be times that we fight temptation. Notice that it wasn't the first time that Potiphar's wife tried to entice him, that he just quit his job and left the house. Wasn't the first time that she spoke to him that he just said, "I cannot be in this place anymore." It was clear that Joseph was supposed to be there, that he was really probably kind of had to be there, and so he continues to resist temptation. And so that should be the case for many of us, and many times we're not going to be able to get away from temptation. We're going to be surrounded by temptation, and we need to fight that desire to give in, by being captivated by God's presence in our lives. By being overtaken that he is with us even closer than that temptation is before us, it should give us the ability to resist. Day after day, Joseph was resisting. But there came a day in which Joseph did not stick around for a discussion, right? This time she didn't talk to him, she grabbed him. This time it says there was nobody else in the house. So Joseph doesn't say, "No, I can't lie with you." He doesn't put up a fight, he just flees, leaves his garment in her hand. And sometimes we just need to flee temptation. There are certain temptations that I think we can just remove ourselves from, particularly in the temptation of sex. There are times when you need to not just fight it, but flee from it. Don't be alone with that person. Break off that relationship. Stop taking your phone with you to bed. Stop going into private places. Invite accountability into your life. There should be times when we actually take action to flee from the area of temptation in our lives. That's what Joseph does, and it costs him, right? He leaves, not there to defend himself, and a false accusation is brought against him. All that success, all that hard work, just taken from him.

That's when Joseph faces the third area of temptation. And I think that's the temptation of sorrow. Joseph had done everything it seemed the right way. And he was living for God, working hard, experiencing success. He's trying to honor God and honor Potiphar and his wife by resisting this temptation. And what does it get him? Being thrown in prison. Have you ever been there? Were you trying to do the right thing? And all it does is cost you? To tell you, sometimes as a pastor, people will come to me and they'll say, "Pastor Ben, we've just been trying to do the right thing. "We've been trying to live the right way, "making sacrifices, and it just seems like "it's getting worse. "Why wouldn't God protect me from this? "Why wouldn't God change the circumstances? "Why am I having to go through this?" And let me just say, I don't think those questions are wrong. I think when we read the Bible, we see lots of honest questions that people bring to us. I think it's okay to bring God our doubts and our questions. But those questions are getting at the heart of this temptation.

I think the temptation of sorrow is the temptation to feel like God has abandoned you, to feel like God doesn't care about you. That when circumstances aren't working out your way, when it doesn't seem like God is blessing you, that his presence must no longer be with you. But of course, that's not the case. It wasn't the case in general. It wasn't the case in Joseph's life. That's why the author brings back around this main idea. In verse 21, it says, "But the Lord was with Joseph, "showed him steadfast love, and gave him favor "in the sight of the keeper of the prison." When you are feeling sorrowful because of the circumstances in life, when it feels like you're trying to do the right thing and it's just not working out, you need to even in those times be captivated by God's presence still with you. So many times it would be easy to turn to other things that would distract us from the sorrow, that would numb the pain that we are experiencing. I think what the Bible is trying to say is God is still with us in those times. The best thing that we could do would be to turn our attention back to him, to realize that his presence is near to us, maybe even closer to us in those moments of sorrow

than any other time. God was with Joseph in Potiphar's house and he was with Joseph in the prison. God is with you in every season and step of your life.

The key to resisting the temptation, whether things are going well or bad, whether it's right in front of you in a really captivating way or just in the back of your mind, the key is to be captivated by God's presence. And one of the ways that we do that, I think is to be reminded of what the Bible draws our attention to here, his steadfast love. It is saying here that God did not stop loving Joseph just because Joseph's circumstances changed. God's presence didn't change just because Joseph was now in prison. And the same is true for you. Just because you are going through a difficult season does not mean that God has stopped loving you. One of the best things that you can do is to go back to his word to see that he loves you at all times. He loved you while you were a sinner. Won't he continue to love you now? He hasn't withheld anything from you, even offering his own son to die on the cross. Why would you think he's withholding anything from you now? To look back in the scripture to see how God's been faithful, to look back in your own life, to recount God's presence through the different seasons and to be in those moments, even in a moment of sorrow, captivated by God's presence.

You see, I think this is what gives us the ability to resist sin. When we look at the story, we're not giving this picture of someone who's just got enough strength and willpower, and that's how they resist temptation. We get the picture of someone whose God's presence is with them. That's how he's able to resist temptation. For you to resist the temptation to sin, it's not just that you need to stuff down the bad desires or become an ascetic who stays away from all enjoyable, pleasurable things in this world. Actually, the Bible says that you just really need your desires reordered. They actually just need, in order to resist temptation, it's not that you need to quit enjoying things, but that you actually just need to find your joy in the one that you are created for, in the God who is present with you in every season of life. This actually gives you, I think, a freedom to enjoy life in the way that God created you to enjoy it, to be able to resist temptation out of a matter of freedom, of enjoying his presence, not just because you know it's not good for you.

This one time, I read an illustration that I've always found to be really helpful. I'm no expert in Greek mythology, but this illustration, it referenced Greek mythology and the way to resist temptation. The person telling the illustration, he said, "You know, in Greek mythology, there were the sirens. "The sirens really were the source of temptation. "Their beautiful music and even their beautiful looks "drew the sailors off their course "and caused them to crash into the rocks." He says there's a story in Greek mythology of Ulysses. Ulysses, yeah. And the way that Ulysses is able to resist going to the sirens is he actually has his sailors tie him to the mast. So he hears the beautiful music, he wants to go to the temptation, but he actually can't get there. He said, "You know, there are certain times in life "when that's what we need. "Maybe we need to be restrained. "Maybe we just need to flee a situation. "That is the way we will not give into that temptation." But he referenced another story from Greek mythology. He referenced a man named Jason, Jason and the Argonauts. Jason was sailing also by the sirens, but Jason didn't get tied to the mast. Actually, what Jason did was he hired this musician named Orpheus to be in his boat. And it says that the Jason and his sailors, they were not drawn to the music of the sirens because there was such beautiful music in their own boat.

The author of the illustration was saying, "This is what God wants for us. "Not just that we always have to be restrained from sin, "although that might be helpful at times, "but that we would be so captivated "by God's love and grace towards us. "We would be so captivated by God's presence "in our boat that we would not desire "the things that the world is offering. "We would be content with the beautiful music, "captivated by the beautiful music in our own ship." And this is what I think Joseph is showing us. God's presence in his life is what is giving him the ability to resist and to succeed in what he does. So in our lives, there might be times when you need to flee. There might be times when you need to be restrained. You can reach out to brothers and sisters, to help in that, I believe. I think ultimately for us to experience the freedom from sin that God wants us to have is to be captivated by his presence in our boat that we would not be drawn to the temptations of the world.