Repentance, Revival, Renewal in our church, city, and homes

39:11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

<u>12</u> that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

So, to review from Sunday – Mrs. Potiphar has been hounding Joseph incessantly but he has refused to listen to her or be tempted by her.

His only words to her have been clear refusal - based on

- (1) his relationship with Mr. Potiphar and the trust that has been placed on him as the steward of the house,
- (2) his understanding that marriage is sacred
- (3) mostly: his relationship with God that this would be "a great wickedness" against God

Lance made many fantastic points on Sunday – but let me just reiterate two of them:

• Joseph was a slave and was under her orders, but he still refused to fall for her seductions – he was basically saying, as the disciples in Acts, "I must obey God rather than man"

• Joseph didn't contemplate her temptations – he never rehearsed it in his mind. Playing it out temptation in our mind sets us up for instant failure when we are actually presented with a tempting offer. Don't rehearse it! Don't visualize it.

Here is something else I've noticed about this episode...

Joseph wasn't as much running FROM temptation as he was running from DANGER

This passage is stressing that Joseph realized that his integrity and reputation was in danger

When he ran, he was taking extreme measures to protect his integrity - even at the cost of his dignity!

We need to have spiritual eyes when we are face with temptation – we need to see it for the danger that it really is –

"I can handle this" is unfortunately top on the list of famous last words of Christians before they fall into the disaster of scandal and disgrace

our desire gives us a foolish bravado - that we can handle any risks

And he was running TO God heart

Joseph ran in God's direction - He probably didn't think of this consciously

He heading away from dangerous temptation, which means he ran towards a closer walk with God

Joseph has learned God's faithfulness. He has learned to trust Him. God has been present with Joseph. There is a real divine intimacy and romance between Joseph and God.

Because his heart belonged to God, his feet headed in the right direction

And drew nearer to the Lord

And, as we see the big picture of what happens as a result of this, we that that Joseph was as he was running TO God's WILL FOR HIS LIFE

Because he runs – Joseph ends up in prison

Mrs. Potiphar accuses Joseph of assaulting her - shifting the blame 180 degrees

"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" – a famous quote from a play from 1697

In prison, though, Joseph is in the exact place God wanted him – as he makes a connection that will eventually lead him to Pharaoh's palace

There might not be any *immediate benefit* found in running from sin – but I can promise you this – when you run in righteousness, even if it seems to backfire and land you in undeserved trouble – you can trust that God is at work

BTW – I couldn't think of many instances when I was unjustly or falsely accused. I was usually guilty and deserved every spanking or punishment I got!

But, what Mrs. Potiphar meant for evil – God meant for good. It moved Joe on to the next stage of his journey from the "Pit to the Palace"

Just as what Joseph's brother meant for evil in selling him into slavery, God turned out for the ultimate good.

So, when you run from temptation...

You are running from danger You are running to deeper intimacy with God You are running into God's sovereign will for your life

Now, let's put Joseph's character study into a larger context:

Think back to Judah, back in Genesis 38, who is presented as a contrast to Joseph...

Judah: Rushing after harlotry – propositioning HER

Joseph: Rushing away from adultery - she was propositioning HIM

Judah: willing to give up his seal, cords and staff – his identity and position

Joseph: very careful with his life and what was assigned to him

Judah: no reason to sin – was in a position of honor

Joseph: every reason to sin – already in a lowly position

Judah: treating Tamar as an object - the veil keeping her humanity at a distance

Joseph: protecting Potiphar and Mrs. Potiphar's marriage

Judah: participating in paganism

Joseph: honoring God's holiness in refusing to sin

Judah: self righteously blaming others for his own sin

Joseph: remaining silent in his innocence - entrusting himself to God

We see two possible roads to take...

We see the example of Joseph (which is the example of Christ) / or Judah

We see Victory by walking in the powerful Spirit of God or the guilt, shame, and disaster of walking in the Flesh

13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,

14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.

15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."

16 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

<u>17</u> Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;

18 so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."

If Shakespeare was writing this story, he might say, "methinks the lady doth protest too much"

Like Judah in ch. 38, she blames someone else for the very sin she instigated!

She even blames her husband, who she was trying to cheat against, for bringing Joseph in to their home to begin with!

Whenever I read this I can't help but think of that classic book "To Kill a Mockingbird": I wonder if the author Harper Lee was inspired by Mrs. Potiphar?

Notice that Joseph says nothing in defense - silent like Jesus - like the lamb that is led to the slaughter is silent

Joseph was simply entrusting himself to God – like David, like Daniel, like Jesus – Jesus' ultimate example was to entrust his life to God even to the point of death on a cross.

When we are innocent we don't need to defend ourselves – no reason to get angry, to attack back, to explain, to negotiate or position ourselves – ultimately: the accuser (satan) has nothing to say about us – we are under the blood of Christ

There are few places (as in the book of acts) where the disciples defend the <u>ministry</u> – but they typically end up beat or in jail anyway! The overall picture in scripture is that God's people never need to fight back in self-defense – God is the Rock of our Defense.

Christians might choose to fight and on behalf of others: the innocent children, women, elderly, the

unborn, etc. - but it is not a Christian virtue to defend our own life or honor.

19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.

I've heard some folks try to say that Potiphar's anger was aroused against his wife – that he knew Joseph would never do such a thing and that he was angry that she had put him into a corner. That is reading way too much between the lines, for me. There is no indication that this is the case.

20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined.

Potiphar was captain of the guard, so he had access to Pharaoh's prison – it was probably under his jurisdiction.

Now, don't think that Potiphar was letting Joseph off the hook and that somehow this prison was a nicer place than a typical Egyptian prison – like it is some kind of white–collar club–med prison for privileged prisoners – I've heard this suggested before.

We will see that this prison is just as bad as any other – men are executed here and when Joseph is brought forth he is unshaved and dressed in rags. It was not supposed to be a nice place.

The real reason Joseph was taken this particular prison, of course, was for a divine appointment – we'll get to in a moment

And he was there in the prison.

Joseph is away from his family for nearly two decades before he finally meets them again in chapter 41. If one calculates the 7 years of abundance and a few years of famine before the brothers arrive (for total of 10 years), and several years serving Potiphar to rise to prominence in his home (5 years?), then perhaps about 5 years spent in the prison is a reasonable guess.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Theme = God is WITH Joseph

Throughout his life, we see God's presence demonstrated in Joseph's...

• Blessing / Prosperity = that everything prospers in his hand / notice I didn't say "personal prosperity," but rather, "making the people around him prosper and flourish"!

- Integrity = that he refuses to sin against God
- Servanthood = that his focus is on others
- Awareness of God's presence = that Joseph has joy in his circumstances
- Miraculous dreams & interpretations = introduced in the episode with his family & brothers / this is the plot in chapter 40 & 41

Look at these two phrases together: <u>"and he was there in the jail...BUT THE LORD..."</u> – God always has something better in mind for our

circumstances. They look bad from our point of view, "BUT GOD" has other plans!

For Joseph, it was <u>Kindness & Favor</u> in the sight of the jail keeper =

"Gave him favor" – we see Joseph's stewardship working hand in hand with God's providence: God softens the chief jailer's heart towards Joseph

In Joseph's shoes, the moment I heard the prison door slam shut, I would have thought, "this is really going to stink"

But Joseph actually discovered kindness and favor And miraculous ability to discern dreams And we see that God puts him in contact with a man that will lead him to Pharaoh and to his spectacular rise from the prison to the palace

God blessed Joseph in prison (as he had blessed him before as a slave)

So: What does this teach us about living in a dead–end situation?

I wonder if I am living in my freedom with as much integrity and passion as Joseph was living his life in a prison!

Or PAUL for that matter – consider that he wrote the book of Philippians while in jail! A book that stresses JOY and REJOICING – and being content in any circumstance – and only thinking of things that are "true, noble, just, pure, lovely & of good report"

In fact, those victorious, empowering words "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" were also written in that jail!

Wow! Putting scripture in context sure adds to the power of the message, right?

I tell you what – if I were unjustly accused or imprisoned, the first thoughts in my mind and the natural attitude in my heart probably wouldn't be like Joseph, Daniel, Peter, Paul, Jeremiah or any of the other famous prisoners in scripture.

In fact – in my daily, free from prison, non–falsely accused life, my attitude is often much *WORSE* than these guys in jail!

<<<PRAY! REPENT OF ATTITUDE ISSUES>>>

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

We can see Joseph as a foreshadowing of Jesus

The whole life story of Joseph points to Jesus – which is the focus of my book Pit to Palace

He came to be a peer - to take the lowliest position - to serve and give his life away -

A simple carpenter turned Rabbi from an unassuming burg called Nazareth – washing his disciples feet, healing the sick and lame all day long, teaching

NOT Lording, bossing, commanding, pushing - leading as a servant - setting an example

Like Joseph, Jesus took the lowest place and lived among us in order to comfort us and rescue us from the prison of SIN

The chief jailer discovers the same truth discovered by Potiphar – that everything prospers in the hands of Joseph, so if you want to succeed, turn over the control to him

We saw this with Potiphar – that with all of his business and property in Joseph's hands, he didn't worry about anything except enjoying his food

Here the chief jailer doesn't have to <u>supervise</u> anything – even less than worrying about it – he doesn't even manage it – he trusts Joseph to do his job

We'll see this in the next episode as well – Pharaoh will turn over the management of all of Egypt to Joseph

There is only one group of people that reject Joseph's servant leadership – his brothers! And their story shows how badly they suffered for their foolish pride!

And the spiritual picture – put everything in the hands of Jesus...

...because everything that He has control over prospers – and then just enjoy the freedom of life in Him – because His burden is easy and His yoke is light

You might be thinking – "Hey, I've got this life thing figured out. I don't need to trust someone else with it." That's what Potiphar, the Jailer & Pharaoh probably thought as well before they learned to trust Joseph!

I'm sure they were surprised that a lowly slave or prisoner could run their business so much better than they – but once they trusted him, it all made sense.

It is the same with Jesus! Let Him be your manager and steward, as Joseph was!

Have you given your life to Jesus? Trusting him to manage it his way? What are you still holding back for yourself? What are you stressed out about? What are you refusing to obey God's word in? Are you making excuses for some immoral or ungodly behavior in your life because you don't think God's standards will really work for you?

Submit to Jesus as LORD – as your Master! And you'll discover what Potiphar, the Prison Guard and Pharaoh all found in Joseph: Order! Flourishing! Peace!

40:1 It came to pass after these things that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt.

2 And Pharaoh was angry with his two officers, the chief butler and the chief baker.

<u>3</u> So he put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison, the place where Joseph was confined.

They are still under Potiphar's jurisdiction (the captain of the guard)

Looking back, we realize that Joseph being sold to Potiphar in the first place was providential – that there was a connection between Potiphar and Pharaoh that would accomplish God's plans for him

I love the alliteration possible in Joseph's story outline...

From the PIT, to POTIPHAR, to PRISON, to PHARAOH, to PREEMINENCE in the PALACE

All of it was PROVIDENTIAL

<u>4</u> And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them; so they were in custody for a while.

5 Then the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, had a dream, both of them, each man's dream in one night and each man's dream with its own interpretation.

6 And Joseph came in to them in the morning and looked at them, and saw that they were sad.

7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in the custody of his lord's house, saying, "Why do you look so sad today?"

FOR SUNDAY!!!

But ponder these three phrases: "He served them" "For a while" "Why do you look so sad today?"

Each of these phrases are worth a sermon!

8 And they said to him, "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please."

As we've seen repeated: God is WITH Joseph

Joseph's words, "interpretations belong to God – tell it to me then" show us something else about God's presence WITH him...

Joseph has great <u>confidence</u> in God – he knows that he represents God in this pagan culture – and he puts God's reputation on the line

That is exactly our role with the gospel in our own culture...

Like Joseph, we can say, "Are you having a problem in life? Tell me about it – because the right perspective belongs to God – and it just so happens that I know Him personally!"

Consider Jonah on the storm tossed ship, running from God's mission to preach in Nineveh – the people on that boat had to beg Jonah to tell his story, which he finally did, but reluctantly – that is the wrong picture completely!

People need us – because they need Jesus! We are their hope – because Jesus is the only hope.

Joseph's words remind me of how important the TRUTH of the GOSPEL is in people's lives

In <u>counseling</u> I've realize that all matters of fear, distress, hurt and conflict are made right when we come to the CROSS and think upon Jesus' death and resurrection.

The words about Jesus in Isaiah 9 are incredibly powerful: His name shall be called "wonderful counselor, mighty God, etc."

All we need for life and godliness, according to Peter, is simply the KNOWLEDGE of JESUS – and the focus of His whole life and ministry is His death and resurrection.

I don't know much about psychological therapy or drug prescriptions for mental issues – but I do know about the CROSS of JESUS and how it provides WONDERFUL COUNSEL for our lives – and I've seen transformation and deliverance when the truth of the cross penetrates in people's hearts and minds.

Think of Joseph's words in light of the GOSPEL, for those that don't know Jesus...

Have you considered lately what life must be like for those without the gospel – without the hope of Jesus?

Joseph says that "all interpretations belong to God" – how can people understand life without knowing the creator of Life and His plan for them?

And Joseph hasn't forgot about or given up on God

Joseph is careful to give glory to God even before he begins to interpret their dreams

He is once again trusting in God

While he was free, Joseph was dreaming dreams and interpreting them, he was checking up on his brothers, he was managing his father's business and property

He continued this as Potiphar's servant and he continued it in prison!

MAY GOD give me such a transformational faith that I would continue on in prison as if I were free!

If our society degrades to the point where I will be thrown in jail for teaching the Bible, guess what I am going to do? Teach the Bible in prison of course!

<u>9 Then the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, "Behold, in my dream a vine was before me,</u>

<u>10</u> and in the vine were three branches; it was as though it budded, its blossoms shot forth, and its clusters brought forth ripe grapes.

<u>11</u> Then Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

The good thing is that I don't have to explain what this means – Joseph does it in the next couple of verses...

12And Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: The three branches are three days.13Now within three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your place, and you will putPharaoh's cup in his hand according to the former manner, when you were his butler.

Joseph's interpretation is simple – restoration for the cupbearer in three days

It is also easily proven true – just wait three days and you'll see!

Here is a sweet nugget I learned from Jon Courson: The restoration of the cupbearer on the third day is a marvelous picture of Jesus:

Do you realize, though, that Jesus is also our CUPBEARER?

As He even prayed in the garden before He was crucified – "Father, take this cup from me, nevertheless, not My will but Your will be done."

Jesus is our CUPBEARER because He bore the cup of our suffering and sin. And He was raised from death on the third day to prove it.

And Jesus was restored to His "former office" – He ascended into heaven where He currently sits on His throne – He is God's Right Hand Man!

Jesus' identity as God and Savior was also proven when he was raised on the third day, as was Joseph's identity as a prophet by the restoration of the cupbearer.

<u>14</u> But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house.

<u>15</u> For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon."

This is the first word of complaint heard from Joseph – and it is really just being honest about his situation

Key to having contentment and joy in our circumstances = remember that Joseph was not WASTING time in slavery and imprisonment

Because he was on God's timetable

And because God was with Him

Eternal life is KNOWING God – so when we are walking intimately with God in our lives, even if we are in a holding pattern in our lives, we aren't wasting a single precious moment

But Joseph is simply being honest about his situation

If something is not right in our situation – we don't have to complain – but we also don't have to keep quiet about it!

We have the strength through Christ to be content in every circumstance – this doesn't mean that we have to silently tolerate the circumstance without seeking God for the next season

If we can improve a situation without complaining in the process - this is Joseph-like

It is also <u>Christ–like</u> – Jesus never complained, but He also prayed every day to do the Father's Will – there were specific seasons of his ministry – times of popularity, times of obscurity, times of opposition, times of preparation – but it was all eventually leading to the cross.

Can you imagine if Jesus went into the wilderness for his 40 day fast, and then just resigned himself to a desert life – maybe to follow in the example of his elder cousin John the Baptist? "This is all God has for me – a monastic life in the desert. Oh well. I guess I just need to be content!"

Or Moses in the wilderness when he saw the burning bush – what if he just ignored it – that it wasn't part of the 40 year shepherding routine, so why bother?

Moses sent out a dove looking for dry land – when if he just resigned himself to living in the ark – it had been over a year – why bother moving out?

Hey – let's be <u>content IN our circumstances</u> – but <u>not content WITH our circumstances</u> – let's keep ourselves OPEN and WILLING for God's next chapter in our lives!

Rattle the door handles. Send out the resumes. Take the college classes. Meet new people. Volunteer for new ministries. Ask God to use you for His kingdom purposes and expect the unexpected!

But be content simply because of God's presence wherever He might have you – be it a Pit, Prison, or Palace

16 When the chief baker saw that the interpretation was good, he said to Joseph, "I also was in my dream, and there were three white baskets on my head.

<u>17</u> In the uppermost basket were all kinds of baked goods for Pharaoh, and the birds ate them out of the basket on my head."

Once again – Joseph reveals the meaning of the dream, so I don't have to come up with some bizarre interpretation. It is always the best idea to let scripture interpret scripture!

<u>18</u> So Joseph answered and said, "This is the interpretation of it: The three baskets are three days.
<u>19</u> Within three days Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you."

Like the cupbearer, Joseph interprets the baker's dream – unfortunately the result is not so good – the baker would be killed

20 Now it came to pass on the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, that he made a feast for all his servants; and he lifted up the head of the chief butler and of the chief baker among his servants.

On the day of the feast, the two men are brought out of jail – and Pharaoh makes a presentation of them

21 Then he restored the chief butler to his butlership again, and he placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand.
22 But he hanged the chief baker, as Joseph had interpreted to them.

Joseph's words come true - one is restored, the other is hanged

It is interesting that Joseph is numbered among the transgressors

As Isaiah 53 predicted He would be... <u>And was numbered with the transgressors;</u> <u>Yet He Himself bore the sin of many,</u> <u>And interceded for the transgressors.</u>

And that two prisoners are there - one is "saved" and the other is "lost"

As one thief that hung with Jesus mocked him, but the other asked for mercy – and for that Jesus promised him that they would shortly be together in paradise

23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

Even after Joseph accurately predicted his release - a divine prophecy - the cupbearer in our story forgot

about Joseph

Oh, how quickly we forget. A person who hasn't yet turned to Christ will hear the gospel – knowing the truth of it and sensing the urgency to respond – but if they don't, as soon as they are out of the church doors, it is back to business as usual.

Don't walk out until you've invited Jesus into your life as your Lord and Savior!

Don't say "I'll do it later" – the old saying is, "today is the day of salvation – can I modify that? <u>Right</u> <u>now</u> is the moment for salvation!

[summarize – it will be repeated at verse 15...]

41:1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years,

Can you imagine being falsely accused and imprisoned for even one night?

Joe has already been imprisoned for quite a long time – this verse says that a further two years pass after the cupbearer was released

When the cupbearer and baker had their dreams, surely Joe thought, "Ah ha! God hasn't forgotten about me. This is surely the moment I will be released and my own prophetic dreams will come to pass – of my family bowing down before me!"

After such a hopeful turn of events, Joe had to patiently wait another two years!

A few verses later, Joseph will finally be standing in front of Pharaoh – and he will give total glory to God for the interpretations. He never fails in his faithful patience with God's plans.

Why did God make Joe wait another two years? Simple – the time to prepare for the famine hadn't arrived yet. There was a global timing issue that God was overseeing so Joe had to continue serving in jail.

But check this out – even when he is exalted to Pharaoh's right hand – he is still only there as a servant and a steward. His job description never changes!

Even though his life is more comfortable and glorious - his actually role as a servant never changes!

That's why two more years in prison doesn't faze him. God is there with Joseph in jail prospering and blessing him – just as God will be with Joe in Pharaoh's palace.

41:1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river.

2 Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow.

<u>3 Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river.</u>

<u>4 And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.</u>

<u>5 *He slept and dreamed a second time; and suddenly seven heads of grain came up on one stalk, plump and good.*</u>

6 Then behold, seven thin heads, blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them.

7 And the seven thin heads devoured the seven plump and full heads. So Pharaoh awoke, and indeed, it was a dream.

<u>8</u> Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them

for Pharaoh.

This dream is told three times in this chapter, so we'll save the interpretation of it to a future study.

Realize the key thing – no one could interpret his dreams. The Egyptians had gods that were dedicated to revealing dreams and secrets – yet here they were apparently silent (or, as we know – non–existent!)

This man is troubled and freaked out, yet no one can give him words of understanding – no one can bring rest to his soul

This is a picture of our unsaved neighbors and friends who need the Gospel! It is the only thing that brings the interpretation of life!

<u>9 Then the chief butler spoke to Pharaoh, saying: "I remember my faults this day.</u>

10 When Pharaoh was angry with his servants, and put me in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, both me and the chief baker,

<u>11</u> we each had a dream in one night, he and I. Each of us dreamed according to the interpretation of his own dream.

<u>12</u> Now there was a young Hebrew man with us there, a servant of the captain of the guard. And we told him, and he interpreted our dreams for us; to each man he interpreted according to his own dream.

<u>13</u> And it came to pass, just as he interpreted for us, so it happened. He restored me to my office, and he hanged him."

Now, Joseph didn't hang the baker: the text says that Pharaoh did.

But Joseph's interpretation was a prophetic word from God – and God knows the past, present and future – it was surely going to take place.

Joseph's words were a certainty! Just as the whole Bible is a certainty!

<u>14</u> Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him quickly out of the dungeon; and he shaved, changed his clothing, and came to Pharaoh.

15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that you can understand a dream, to interpret it."

16 So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

If I were in Joseph's shoes, I might be tempted to say, "Yes, I am a mighty and powerful dream interpreting magician and you had better let me go free or I will curse your bed with the bug of a thousand camels."

Joseph knows that he has no power – he has totally entrusted himself to God and gives God all the glory. We have to be just as careful to give God the glory.

Let me end with this:

Billy Graham famously warned his young men that he was mentoring – "Don't touch the gold, don't touch the glory, and don't touch the girls."

In these passages tonight, we've seen Joseph doing exactly this: Keeping his hands off of Mrs. Potiphar Keeping his hands off of other people's property – only managing it as a trusted steward And here at the end – giving all glory to God!