

THE FORERUNNERS

LIVING FOR AND POINTING TO JESUS



A Sunday teaching series at King's
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Series Description

Before Jesus turned up 2000 years ago there are countless recorded stories of people who loved God and were trusting Him to provide someone who would save them and make everything right that had gone wrong in the world. In this series we're going to be taking a look at some of the people in those stories as they ran before Jesus.

Forerunner Characters

Job by Goff Hope
Joseph by Toby Skipper
Elijah by Marcus Tutt
and others

Recommended Reading

[Job by Charles Swindoll](#)
[Joseph by Charles Swindoll](#)
[Elijah by Charles Swindoll](#)

Listen to the audio

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kingsnorwich.com/forerunners

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LIFE Groups: Learning, Integration, Friendship, Everyone a witness

Title: Joseph Pt 1: When Temptation Comes Knocking

Speaker: Toby Skipper Bible Reference: Genesis 39:1-18

Overview

Jesus is our Joseph - the one who suffered at the hands of his brothers, faced adversity with integrity and utter faithfulness to God (even through suffering and death) and who saved more than a pagan nation from starvation; He is the bread of life! Joseph went to the depths of prison and pain to emerge (be resurrected) to a position of power to save the lives of many - Jesus did it on a whole other scale!

Main points

Joseph arrives in Egypt and things seem to be looking up (39:1-6) but he is about to enter season of intense personal temptation, trials & testing. *"God doesn't mind sacrificing our comfort for the development of our character or the deployment of our calling."* There is a close relation between temptation, testing and trials.

- Moo *"Every trial brings temptation. Testing almost always includes temptation, & temptation is itself a test. While God may test or prove his servants in order to strengthen their faith, he never seeks to induce sin and destroy their faith"* James 1:2-3 aim = "mature & complete" part of our growth in character & gifting.

What do we do when temptation comes knocking? (Which is sometimes relentless – see v10)

- 1. Live before an audience of one:** Key to refusing V9 "How could I do such a wicked thing & sin against God?"
 - Os Guinness *"What we do when no one sees but God, is the test of true responsibility... Joseph had no human audience. But one audience was enough, the Audience of ONE."*
- 2. Make Jesus your focus:** When tempted we will look somewhere: inward (our strength to resist), outward (object of desire) - Psalm 141:4,8 *"Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil... my eyes are fixed on you"*
 - Don't focus on object of temptation or your ability to resist it. Look UPWARD to Jesus – Heb 4:15-16
- 3. Remember the bitter taste:** Proverbs 5:1-4 See sin for what it is; pray to have eyes opened to the bitter taste.
- 4. Recognise the counterfeit:** Jesus was tempted with counterfeit satisfaction of his appetites, need for approval & fulfilment of his ambitions. Counterfeits don't deliver on what they promise – Truth sets us free.
- 5. Don't hang around:** Joseph ran! **V12** - Didn't entertain it or invite it in - 1Cor 10:13 *"God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear... God will **always** give you a way out."*

Where we've given in, there's grace! Our sin is no match for God's grace! See Romans chapter 5 & 6

- Trip Lee *"Don't dwell on the past; unless it's Golgotha"* – It is finished & is enough! Our position in Christ is secure even when we fail!

Questions

1. What is the reason for Joseph's success in the work place? How does this point us to Jesus & what difference does it make to us? (Col 3:22-14)
2. What does it mean to live before an 'audience of one' and how can this help us refuse sin when tempted?
3. How can we make Jesus our focus, especially in those moments when we feel the pull of sin tugging on our lives?
4. How does knowing and experiencing God's grace enable us to walk in increasing freedom & victory over sin? (Titus 2:11-12 Romans ch5&6)