

YOUR MOVE

Four questions to ask when you don't know what to do.

LESSON 2 – THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

"So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her."

Genesis 39:6-10 (NIV)

Every season of life we go through is filled with experiences that at times are packed with meaning and significance. But later, if we were asked to summarize those experiences, we would probably condense everything that happened to just a few sentences. Isn't that amazing?

1. The question is: What STORY do I want to tell about my life?

A. When people tell their life stories, they **CONDENSE** large chunks of their life into just a few sentences.

Decisions that at the moment seem so large and complicated will later be nothing more than a line or two in the stories we tell about our life.

B. In every **TRANSITION** and every **DECISION-MAKING** environment, we're writing the script for the story.

2. We forget to ask, "Which of these CHOICES best fits with my story of life so far?"

A. You want to be able to tell your whole life story **HONESTLY** and not feel forced to skip or disguise any parts.

The biblical account of Joseph details dilemmas he could never have expected.

"So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him." **Genesis 37:17b (NIV)**

"Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood?²⁷ Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came

*by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.” **Genesis 37:26-28 (NIV)***

*“Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard.” **Genesis 37:36 (NIV)***

- To be **KILLED** or sold into **SLAVERY** and taken to **EGYPT**.

Joseph had several decisions to make, which he never wanted to make. How do you respond to being kidnapped by his brothers, sold into slavery, into a nation where you’ll never see your family again. What do you do with that?

- 1) Joseph decides not to play the role of a **VICTIM**.
- 2) He decides that this is his fate from the **HAND** of **GOD**, and this is somehow God’s will for him.
- 3) He responds in such a way that he takes his **RESPONSIBILITY** as a slave seriously and does his best.
- 4) As a result of his **OBEDIENCE**, over time he was recognized and put in charge of the house of Potiphar.

*“So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. **Genesis 39:6 (NIV)***

3. Joseph was forced to choose between NO WIN options.

*7 and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!” 8 But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.” **Genesis 39:6-10 (NIV)***

Joseph’s story gives us insight that helps us understand the importance of asking this question: “What is the story that you want to tell others about your life?”

Joseph said, this is the story that I want to tell.

- A. God **RESCUED** me through a difficult time.
- B. Potiphar **ENTRUSTED** me with everything he owned.
- C. Joseph **REFUSED** Potiphar’s wife’s advances, and it will probably cost him in the end.

Don’t ever compromise anything that will make you a liar for life.

Every decision you make becomes part of your story. What is the story you want to tell about your life? Will it be, *“I cast my care upon my heavenly Father, and I obeyed God to the best of my ability.”*

*“Cast all your care on him: for he careth for you.” **1 Peter 5:7 (1599 Geneva Bible)***