

Pastor John Miller

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Title: What Would I Do If I Was Joseph, pt.-2

Purpose: Help people understand trials are often a spiritual test and provoke them to keep believing God and following His plan when our faith is tested.

Truth for Today: Adversity tests our faith in God. When tested, if we continue believing and following God we will often be promoted.

Topic: Discipleship, Test, Adversity, Promotion, Sexual Morality, Time

Text: Psalm 105: 17-21

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

What Would I Do If I Was Joseph? pt-2

I. Introduction

- A. Review series: "What Would I Do If..." Last week we began a 3 part look at, "What Would I Do If I Was Joseph?" **E.g. sandals** [Psalm 105:17-21 (NLT) Then **he (God)** sent someone to Egypt ahead of them- Joseph, who was **sold as a slave...19 Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character.** 20 Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free (from prison and he interpreted Pharaoh's dream), 21 **Joseph became ruler over all the king's possessions.**] ...and all Egypt.
- B. Today we'll see Joseph faced multiple tests between his God given dreams and their fulfillment. The tests were followed by 3 significant promotions. Overview: at 17, he dreams his family would bow to him symbolizing provision and protection of God's chosen people during a famine- Jealous brothers pit-Sold slavery- Promoted in Potiphar's house- Falsely accused of rape- Prison- Promoted in prison- Tested in prison several years- Interprets Pharaoh's dreams- Promoted to governor over Egypt- 7 year of plenty/ 7 famine- Brother's bow down for food- Joseph reconciles brothers- God's chosen people move to Egypt. The tests were God's means to prepare Joseph.

II. Test #1: The test of forced slavery.

- A. [Genesis 39:1-4 (NLT) When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar...captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. ² The Lord was with Joseph, so **he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master...**⁴ This pleased **Potiphar**, so he...**put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.**]
1. The Bible addresses slavery as a cultural and societal practice, not a Biblical affirmation of the practice.
- B. Joseph was somewhere he didn't want to be doing something he didn't want to do. **E.g.** He was promoted because he served with excellence and kept a good attitude, in spite of his circumstances. E.g. instead of whining, complaining & trying to run away.
- C. **Life App** promotion work/ business succeed (1) Follow Joseph's **e.g.**, (2) [Eph. 6:5-8 (NLT) Slaves, **obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.** ⁶ **Try to please them all the time**, not just when they are watching you...⁷ **Work with enthusiasm**, as though you were working

- for the Lord rather than for people. ⁸ Remember that **the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do...**] **Opp. E.g.** Dr. ignored by 3 people behind glass/ elderly
- III. **Test #2: The test of sexual seduction, i.e. someone has the hots for you.**
- A. **Genesis 39:6–20 (NLT)**...Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷ and **Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. ⁸ But Joseph refused...**⁹...How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great **sin against God.**” ¹⁰ **She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused...and he kept out of her way as much as possible.**
- B. Lessons: (1) God blesses and approves of the sexual relationship between a man and a woman in the lifelong covenant of marriage. (2) Sex outside marriage is sinful. **[1 Thes. 4:3–8 (NLT) God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin...]** (3) Avoid places where temptation is the greatest. **E.g** Joseph shouldn’t have been alone with Potiphar’s wife. (4) When someone is trying to seduce you, avoid them. Get out of the situation if possible. **E.g [1 Cor 6:18–20 (NLT) Run from sexual sin!]** Joseph ran but left his jacket in her hands and she got mad and yelled rape.
- IV. **Test #3 The test of time; Joseph was in prison for a long time**
- A. **[Ge. 39:19–41:1 (NLT) Potiphar was furious...**²⁰ So he took Joseph and threw him into the **prison...**] Joseph faced 2 more tests, (1) the test of false accusation and (2) punished when he did nothing wrong. **Sometimes we should defend ourselves and stand up to injustice; sometimes it’s best not to defend our self but let God do it. *God would use the prison to reposition him for Pharaoh’s dreams. // Pit get to Egypt**
- B. **[Vs 21] But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison...**²²...the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison...]
1. God can bless us in difficulty if our attitude is right and our heart is to serve.
- C. **Ch. 40:1 Some time later, Pharaoh’s chief cup-bearer and chief baker...**³...in prison ...⁹ So the chief cup-bearer told Joseph...“In my **dream,**”...¹¹ I was holding Pharaoh’s wine cup...so I took...grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup....¹² This is what the dream means, Joseph said...¹³ Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer...(*Joseph begged him to get him out*) ²³ **Pharaoh’s chief cup-bearer...forgot all about Joseph...**¹ **Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed** that he was standing on the bank of the Nile..] **Next**
- D. Life App.
1. Waiting for circumstances to change can be like a thirsty plant waiting for rain. **Waiting for God can make our faith shrivel and die. Faith must be patient and endure waiting.** While waiting, faith is watered by an attitude of thankfulness, remembering God’s Word/ promises, prayer and Bible reading. God will promote and bless us if we keep a good attitude and do our job as unto the Lord.
2. **Happiness isn’t dependent on our circumstances but on our relationship with God.** If we’re close to God, He can help us find happiness and fulfillment when we’re waiting somewhere we don’t want to be doing something we don’t want to do.
- V. **Conclusion: Summary 5 tests:** (1) We’re not where we want to be and are forced to do what we don’t want to do, (2) Sexual seduction, (3) Response to false accusation, (4) Punished when we did nothing wrong, (5) Time and waiting on God to change things.

God had a reason He was testing Joseph. It was to prepare and mature him to be governor and save his family. // school: When we pass the test, promotion and blessing are coming.

VI. Response

- A. Prayer: Is your faith being tested? Are you passing or failing the test?
- B. Souls: The biggest test we'll face is, are we willing to surrender our life to Jesus and follow Him, or will we keep going our way and be judged for our sin? Problem-S-D

VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

VIII. Supplemental material

- A. 1 Thessalonians 4:3–8 (NLT) God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. ⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. ⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. ⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.]