

05-29-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Mentor Me, Joseph, pt-2

Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons from the Biblical character, Joseph.

Truth for Today: Joseph went from a pit to a position of great power because he held on to his faith in God no matter what happened.

Text: Genesis 37:2-10

Topic: Joseph, Adversity, Attitude, Sexual Morality, Choices

Series Title: Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

Mentor Me, Joseph, pt-2

I. Introduction

A. Dismiss young kids for an adult conversation about sexuality during announcements.

B. Review series: Mentor Me...learning life lessons from Biblical mentors. Last week we began to be mentored by Joseph. Video³ Persecuted by bro's. Joseph was given a dream by God but was rejected by his brothers and was sold into slavery in Egypt. But he kept his faith in God and prospered in adversity. He kept doing good when people did him wrong. In God's timing he was promoted and blessed and fulfilled God's purpose for His life, to save the world from a famine.

C. Last week Joseph taught us: (1) God has a purpose for everyone, (2) How we can find God and keep faith in life's discouraging moments, (3) There is a sovereign hand guiding our life. Today he'll show us (1) His attitude determined his future; so will ours. (2) He passed the test of sexual temptation; so can we. (3) He still did right when people treated him bad; so can we.

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II. Joseph's attitude determined his future; so will ours.

A. [Genesis 39:1–4 (ESV) Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh...**bought him** from the Ishmaelites...]

1. Def. attitude: the way we think or feel that determines how we behave.

What kind of attitude do most people have who are in a place they don't want to be doing a job they don't like. They complain, don't do a good job, don't work hard, cut corners, show up late, etc. Joseph must have

been different. His trust in God controlled his feelings about his circumstances.

B. [Vs. 2 **The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man**, and he was **in the house of his Egyptian master**. 3 His master saw that...**the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands**. 4...and **he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had**.] A slave with no rights became a blessed ruler.

1. Why was he successful? Why was the Lord with him? I'm going to make an assumption that seems consistent with Bible revelation. Joseph was successful and blessed because (1) He chose the right attitude when life didn't make sense, and (2) He trusted God in spite of his hardship and disappointment.
2. He seemed to do everything with excellence as unto the Lord.
[Colossians 3:22 (NLT) Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. **Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord.**]
3. Lesson: God can bless us when we're in a place we don't want to be, forced to do what we don't want to do IF we keep trusting Him and do things right. Our attitude of excellence and our trust in God invites Him into our situation. We can choose our attitude. We don't have to let feelings and thoughts determine how we act. If Joseph chose the right attitude as a slave in Potiphar's house, so can we. Joseph's attitude determined his future and our attitude will determine ours.

III. Joseph passed the test of sexual temptation; so can we.

A. Video⁴ Genesis 39:6–10 (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**...he told her, "My master trusts me with everything in his entire household. 9...He has held back nothing from me except you...How could I do such a wicked thing? **It would be a great sin against God.**"]

1. Joseph's greatest priority in life was pleasing God.
2. Who was right, Potiphar's wife who wanted to commit adultery or Joseph who said no? Potiphar's wife reflected modern culture, i.e., there are no sexual boundaries. Whatever you feel like doing sexually is ok but Joseph had a different set of values rooted in the Bible.

B. Biblical overview of sexuality

1. Sex is a good thing; it's God's idea. God designed our bodies for pleasure and to multiply human race. [Genesis 2:20–24 (ESV)...for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. (*Msg A suitable companion*) 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and...took one of his ribs... 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man...24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and **they shall become one flesh.**] 1 flesh refers to God's design and intent for sexual intercourse between a married man and woman.
 - a. God didn't create Adam's mate to look like him. She looked a little different between the shoulders and below the belly button. She also had something called a womb to bear children. This is the biblical basis that tells us the modern debate on a person's ability to change gender is wrong.
 - b. Song of Solomon is a story about the pleasure of love and sex.
2. God reserves sex for marriage and put a boundary/ fence around the marriage bed. [Hebrews 13:4 (NLT) Give honor to marriage, and **remain faithful to one another in marriage.** (NIV **the marriage bed kept pure**) (ESV) for **God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**]
3. What is sexual immorality? Siri referred me to Christianity.com sexual immorality means defying God's law of sexual relations. [Mark 7:21 (ESV) For from within, out of the heart of man comes...sexual immorality...Gk. Porneia "every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse" i.e., premarital sex/ fornication, adultery, homosexuality, sex with animals or incest/ family members, molestation of children and pornography. ²
 - 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...8 Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is **rejecting God...**]
4. Sexual lust/ temptation is real. We beat it by (1) Running away like Joseph, (2) Confessing our weakness to a trusted friend for prayer and accountability and (3) Staying away/ disconnect from places where

you're likely to be tempted, including porn on technology. P Mike sermon on temptation.

IV. Joseph still did right when people treated him bad; so can we.

A. Ge. 39:11–23 (NLT) One day...**no one else was around** when he went in to do his work. 12 She...grabbed him... demanding, "...sleep with me!" **Joseph tore himself away**, but he left his cloak in her hand as he **ran from the house**...14 she called out to her servants...He came into my room to rape me...19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story...20 So **he took Joseph and threw him into the prison**...

1. When we get treated wrong, we have a choice: get mad and quit following Jesus or keep trusting and serving Him. Joseph chose to trust.
2. [Vs. 21 But **the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love**. And **the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the...warden**. 22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23...**the LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed**.] Joseph did right when he was done wrong, and God blessed him. Doing right when people do us wrong can open a door of grace.

B. Ro. 12:17–21 (NCV) If someone does wrong to you, **do not pay him back by doing wrong to him**...20 But you should do this: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. Doing this will be like pouring burning coals (NLT of shame) on his head." 21 Do not let evil defeat you, but defeat evil by doing good.] Jesus, [Mt. 5:44–45 (NLT)...I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.]

1. Why would we act like this? Because right behavior opens a door for God to work in the lives of the evildoer and bless us. This doesn't mean we're a doormat and can't defend ourselves or use the legal system, (Paul saved himself from a beating by appealing to Roman laws protecting citizens. Acts 22:25–29). However, our 1st reaction is to respond right and see what God does.

V. Conclusion: Your prison can be a step to the palace of God's plan.

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A. Context pharaoh has a dream, [Genesis 41:9–14 (NLT) Finally, the king's chief cupbearer (*previously in the same jail as Joseph*) spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure...12 There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison...We told him our dreams...13 And everything

happened just as he had predicted...14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was **quickly brought from the prison.**] A few verses later Joseph becomes the VP of Egypt. The prison wasn't fun, but it was part of God's plan to prepare and position Joseph for his destiny.

B. Truth for Today: Joseph went from a pit to a position of great power because he held on to his faith in God no matter what happened. So should we.

VI. Response

A. Summary/ Prayer: (1) His attitude determined his future; you're struggling keeping a good attitude in a hard situation. (2) He passed the test of sexual temptation; The HS has convicted you about something in your sexual life. (3) He still did right when people treated him bad; you're struggling doing right when people are treating you bad.

B. Souls

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

1. BAGD W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT and Other Early Christian Literature* (21979) Balz, H. R., & Schneider, G. (1990–). [*Exegetical dictionary of the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 3, p. 137). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans.
2. BAGD W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the NT and Other Early Christian Literature* (21979)
3. <https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=EB01JNNU> APPROXIMATELY 5:10-6:15
4. <https://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=EB01JNNU> APPROXIMATELY 2:02-2:33