

“A Successful Man”

Genesis 39:1-23

JOSEPH WAS BROUGHT DOWN TO EGYPT. v.1

1. Beginning a part of Genesis with large narratives... 3 scenes in Joseph's life:

- Ch. 39: Joseph in Potiphar's house and in prison
- Ch. 40: Joseph interprets dreams of fellow prisoners
- Ch. 41: Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams

2. Joseph was taken “down to Egypt” and was bought as a slave by a man named Potiphar. v.1

JOSEPH'S SUCCESS IN POTIPHAR'S HOUSE. v.2-6

1. The LORD was with Joseph—and he became a successful man. v.2

2. Potiphar saw that the LORD was with Joseph—and made him overseer of his house. v.3-4

3. The LORD blessed Potiphar because of Joseph. v.5

4. Potiphar trusted Joseph and gave everything over to his care. v.6 “all that he had” 4 x's in v.4, 5, 6

- These verses are filled with repetitious language of success and blessing.
- The text notes Joseph's appearance: he was “handsome in form and appearance”. **v.6b**

TEMPTATION BY POTIPHAR'S WIFE. v.7-20

1. Joseph's success and appearance drew the attention of a lying, adulterous woman. v.7

- She “cast her eyes” on Joseph and enticed him sexually: “Lie with me.”
- Abruptness in the text. Crude, brazen, blunt. “Lie with me” is imperative—a command.

2. Joseph refused her demand with intentionality. v.8-10

- ‘I have been given a great responsibility and this would break trust with my master.’ **v.8b-9a**
- ‘This is sin against God.’ **v.9b**
- Joseph needed this intentionality—because Potiphar's wife was daily tempting him. **v.10**

3. One particular day.... v.11-20

- Joseph again refused her seduction—and fled out of the house. **v.11-12**
- Potiphar's wife had enough—and falsely accused Joseph to the other slaves. **v.13-15**
- Then she falsely accused Joseph to her husband Potiphar. **v.16-18**
- Potiphar burned with anger—and put Joseph in prison. **v.19-20** Ref. Psalm 105:18

JOSEPH IN PRISON. v.21-23

1. But the LORD was with Joseph in prison. v.21

- The LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love.
- The LORD gave Joseph favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

2. Joseph (again) was put in charge of all the prisoners and whatever was done in the prison. v.22

3. The LORD was with Joseph—and made whatever he did succeed. v.23

APPLICATIONS

1. The reality of false accusations. Ref. Prov. 6:16-19; John 15:20

- The 9th commandment prohibits BOTH lying and failing to defend our neighbor's (and our) reputation.
- Reserve judgment with wisdom. Don't jump to conclusions about something. Wisdom is waiting.

2. Resisting temptation. Ref. 1 Corinthians 10:13; 6:15-20

3. Trusting the LORD and His plan in all circumstances. Ref. Philippians 4:11-13

Proverbs 6:16-19: There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

1 Corinthians 10:13: No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 6:15-20: Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined [to](#) a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Philippians 4:11-13: ...for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.