

# DON'T RESIST SIN – AVOID IT

## GENESIS 39

Text:

Introduction:

Give history of Joseph.

- One of 12 brothers
- Beloved of his father which made his brothers very jealous
- His brothers plotted to kill him
- Reuben stepped in and convinced his brothers to spare his life.
- They then threw him into a pit.
- They decided instead of killing him, they would sell him and make some money.
- So passing through was Caravan of Ishmaelites and his brothers sold Joseph to them.
- They took Joseph's coat, dipped it goat's blood and took it back to Jacob, who assumed that Joseph had been torn to pieces by a wild animal

- When Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to a man by the name at Potiphar.
- Potiphar was a captain, a soldier that worked for Pharaoh.
- Joseph began to work under Potiphar, and was a very hard worker.
- Potiphar noticed the industry, and integrity of Joseph. He knew he did his very best.
- Joseph was soon promoted into managing the Potiphar estate.

That brings us to our text.

***Read Text.***

- The rest of the story tells us that after Joseph ran from her, she cried "Rape."
- What I'm going to give you is something important for every young person, you need it!

If I were to choose any truth found in the Bible to give to teenagers, I believe with all my heart, this is what God would have me to say.

Joseph found himself in a tough situation. He was resisting temptation. He did manage to avoid sin. He

really wanted to avoid sin. And the next thing you know we find Potiphar's wife screaming "Rape."

Gen. 39:12 tells us something we need to know. It tells us that Joseph resisted sin, but I see something more there. The verse right before it says that he didn't avoid sin. He resisted but he did not avoid.

What was he doing in a house all alone with a woman he knew was after him? Why would he go into a questionable situation when he knew that she would be waiting there as always, with the intent to lure him into wickedness? That is what I would like to know He would never have had to resist if he had avoided it.

Potiphar's wife was probably very beautiful, knowing Potiphar's position. He probably had money and that often would mean that he would have his choice of a lot of women and that he would marry for beauty. Joseph allowed himself to be put in a situation where he knew she wanted him. The Bible says in Gen. 39:10 that day by day she tempted him. Joseph knew that she was watching for her chance, He knew that she would make him an offer and he knew that she would tempt him.

You know the devil wants you. The devil is watching for his chance to get you. The devil will tempt you. She is now screaming rape. What had happened? He had put himself in a situation where he had to resist sin, when he could have avoided it. Had he been avoiding it, he

would no doubt avoid the house completely when no one else was present. He would not have gone into that house all alone with her knowing that she was out to get him. He would never have had to come face to face with that sin. Yes he did say "NO" to sin, but he placed himself in a situation that could have destroyed him.

I want you to learn this lesson well. DO NOT RESIST SIN, AVOID IT! You'll not have to resist the committing of sin face to face if you'll avoid sin's territory. It's easier to avoid temptation, than it is to resist it.

There is a disease spoken of in the Bible called leprosy. It's a fatal disease. It's also very contagious. History tells us that in the old days when someone would have leprosy, they would get very very hungry because they were cast out of the cities. Business men who had opened shops would always keep a long pole nearby. If someone with leprosy would come into town, and approach their business, they could take that pole and put it between them and the diseased person to protect their business. That's where I wouldn't touch them with a ten foot pole come from. You see, he wanted to avoid the chance of getting the disease. He did not use a one inch pole. He used a ten foot pole to stay far away from the disease.

If I had a 12 ounce glass of strychnine poison here and I said to you, "If you drink 12 ounces of this, it would kill

you." I wonder if you would drink 11 ounces? You say that ridiculous.

Sin is a more fatal disease or poison you'll find on the face of this earth. DO NOT RESIST SIN, AVOID IT!

Let me give you 2 or 3 thoughts about avoiding sin.

**1. When you resist sin, instead of avoiding it, others will think you committed it.**

A. Guilt by association.

1. Potiphar thought he was guilty
2. Everybody thought he was guilty.

B. He lost some things as well.

1. His position.
2. His reputation.
3. He lost his job.
4. He lost his freedom.
5. He lost his testimony.

**Illustration:** If you don't want fleas don't lay with the dogs. If you don't want to smell like a pig, don't play in the pigpen. **Illustration:** If you saw me drunk last night what would you think?

**2. It's easier to avoid sin than it is to resist it.**

A. Pride makes us think that we can resist sin.

**3. If you do not avoid sin but resist it only, the next step is to commit it.**

A. Prison was so bad after all.

1. I wonder how many more times that Joseph would have been able to say no?

***Close:***

In Mat 6:13 "And lead us not into temptation...". What is it saying? Help us to avoid temptation. If I avoid, I can resist. If you think you can put sin in your face every time you turn around and keep resisting, you can't! I don't know anybody that is strong enough to live that way very long.

Joseph could have done better for himself. You say, "Well Joseph resisted." You are not Joseph. David was a man after God's own heart, but he didn't resist Bathsheba. Maybe Joseph wouldn't have resisted the next day either.

Do you want to know how to guarantee that you won't fall into sin and wreck your life? Stop trying to resist temptation day after day, and learn to avoid temptation all together.