

DECIDING TO TURN FROM TEMPTATION GENESIS 39:1-12

Text:

Introduction:

Temptation is something that every one of us deals with. Even the Lord was tempted. The issue is not the temptation, but rather what we do with temptation.

The character we consider tonight is probably one of the most familiar characters in the bible. The story of Joseph has been shared often, and the lessons that we can learn from this story are unlimited.

It interesting to me in that it was his coat of many colors that stirred jealousy in his brothers that resulted in his ending up in Egypt; and it is another coat that resulted in him being wrongfully accused and thrown into prison.

Joseph made the best out of a bad situation. He is trusting God, doing what he is supposed to do without complain, and God is blessing Him.

Satan hates this and tries everything in his power to stop it. Satan still does the same tactics he did in

Joseph's day and tonight we will look at turning from temptation this evening.

1. THE PATTERN OF TEMPTATION

A. It Was Visual (Vs. 7)

Genesis 39:7

⁷ And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

One of the most effective tools of the devil

- Eve saw the forbidden fruit. (Genesis 3)
- Lot saw the forbidden pleasures. (Genesis 13)
- Achan saw the forbidden possessions. (Joshua 7)
- David saw the forbidden woman. (II Samuel 11)

B. It Was Versatile

Satan tried to get Joseph to sin by:

- Despair - He was taken from home, family, and comfort
- Delight - Physical pleasure

C. It Was Dignified

It was more appealing for Potiphar's wife than some other slave. It would make it appear more:

- Permissible
- Acceptable
- Safe

People try to make sin more appealing and dignified.

D. It Was Timely

- It came at a time of success. (vs. 3, 4, 6)

Genesis 39:3-6

³ And his master saw that the LORD *was* with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all *that* he had he put into his hand. ⁵ And it came to pass from the time *that* he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. ⁶ And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was *a* goodly *person*, and well favoured.

- It came at a time of secrecy. (vs. 11)

Genesis 39:11

¹¹ And it came to pass about this time, that *Joseph* went into the

house to do his business; and *there was* none of the men of the house there within.

E. It Was Persistent (vs. 10)

Genesis 39:10

¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

F. It Was Deceitful (vs. 10)

Genesis 39:10

¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

G. It Was Aggressive

2. THE PRACTICE OF GODLINESS

How did Joseph avoid disaster?

A. Feared God (vs. 9)

Genesis 39:9

⁹ *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Joseph's reverence for God caused him to exercise integrity at the moment of choice.

Psalms 115:13

¹³ He will bless them that fear the LORD, *both* small and great.

Proverbs 4:23

²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Proverbs 6:25

²⁵ Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

B. Fled Temptation (vs. 8, 12)**Genesis 39:8**

⁸ But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what *is* with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

Genesis 39:12

¹² And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

How do we flee temptation?

1. Remain simple to wickedness.

Romans 16:19

¹⁹ For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

2. Remain on guard.

Note: Verse 11 indicates that there were normally other men in the house.

2 Timothy 2:21-22

²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work. ²² Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

³ For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: ⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

3. Remain faithful to the Word of God.

Matthew 4:1-4

¹ Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. ² And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. ³ And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. ⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

C. Followed Holiness

How can I do this great wickedness?—verse 9

Genesis 39:9

⁹ *There is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Joseph gives two most powerful reasons for his noncompliance with the wishes of his mistress:

- Gratitude to his master, to whom he owed all that he had
- His fear of God, in whose sight it would be a heinous offence

This must have been evident because Potiphar, in Genesis 39:3, “Saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.”

Potiphar learned quickly that all that Joseph did made a profit and that he was a man who could be entrusted with all of Potiphar’s possessions.

It is God's presence with us that makes all we do prosperous. Those that would prosper must therefore make God their friend; and those that do prosper must therefore give God the praise.

Proverbs 4:23

²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

D. Forsook the Appearance of Evil (vs. 10c)

Genesis 39:10

¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, *or* to be with her.

3. THE PRODUCT OF FAITHFULNESS

A. Trust Is Built (vs. 20-23)

Genesis 39:20-23

²⁰ And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners *were* bound: and he was there in the prison. ²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²² And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that *were* in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer *of it*. ²³ The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing *that was* under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and *that* which he did, the LORD made *it* to prosper.

B. Opportunities Are Opened

Genesis 41:37-40

³⁷ And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. ³⁸ And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find *such a one* as this *is*, a man in whom the Spirit of God *is*? ³⁹ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, *there is* none so discreet and wise as thou *art*: ⁴⁰ Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

C. Christ Is Glorified

Genesis 50:19-21

¹⁹ And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for *am* I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; *but* God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as *it is* this day, to save much people alive. ²¹ Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and

your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

Close:

If you have been emotionally and morally pure don't be lifted up with pride.

If you have been unfaithful, or immoral repent and restore.

If you have been less than careful