

THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH

GENESIS 39:7-23

Text: Genesis 39:21

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²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

Introduction:

A young man applied for a job as a farmhand. When the farmer asked for his qualifications, he said, "***I can sleep when the wind blows.***" This puzzled the farmer. But he liked the young man, and hired him. A few days later, the farmer and his wife were awakened in the night by a violent storm.

They quickly began to check things out to see if all was secure. They found that the shutters of the farmhouse had been securely fastened. A good supply of logs had been set next to the fireplace. The young man slept soundly. The farmer and his wife then inspected their property. They found that the farm tools had been placed in the storage shed, safe from the elements. The tractor had been moved into the garage. The barn was properly locked. Even the animals were calm. All was well.

The farmer then understood the meaning of the young man's words, "***I can sleep when the wind blows.***" Because the farmhand did his work loyally and

faithfully when the skies were clear, he was prepared for the storm when it broke. So when the wind blew, he was not afraid. He could sleep in peace.

The story about the young farmhand illustrates a principle that we would do well to learn. There was nothing dramatic or sensational in the young farmhand's preparations. He just faithfully did what was needed each day. Consequently, peace was his, even in a storm.

When the sun set each day on Joseph's life, he could rest easy, because he has been faithful. When he was home with his father Jacob, he had been a faithful son. When he minded his father's flocks, he had been a faithful worker. When he was sold to Potiphar, he proved to be a faithful servant. Because he had been faithful, the Lord blessed everything he did.

In this passage, we are allowed to see the faithfulness of Joseph very clearly. He remains faithful to His God, and to himself, in the face of some problems that would cause many others to fail.

Of course, there is a word here for our lives today. As we pass through this life many situations will arise that have the potential to throw us off course. The world, the flesh and the devil will all conspire to get us to quit on God. They will do everything in their power to cause us to drop out or to fall far short of our potential.

God wants us to be faithful. He wants us to stay the course and run the race for His glory until He calls us

home. Joseph teaches us how to be faithful in spite of what we may face in this life.

1. FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF TEMPTATIONS (VS 7-12)

Genesis 39:7-12

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. 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; 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? 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. 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. 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.

Notice some things about this temptation.

- Desire – Natural desire
- Distance – Was away from home
- Distinct time – After a promotion

We must remember these things about temptation:

1. Temptation is never from God.

James 1:13

¹³ Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

2. Temptation is always from within.

James 1:14-15

¹⁴ But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. ¹⁵ Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

3. There is always a way out of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

What is the way out?

1. Deal with it immediately
2. Deal with it realistically
3. Deal with it ruthlessly
4. Deal with it consistently
5. Deal with it confidently – the Lord will make a way of escape.

2. FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF TRIALS (VS 13-19)

Genesis 39:13-19

¹³ And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, ¹⁴ That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. ¹⁶ And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. ¹⁷ And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: ¹⁸ And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. ¹⁹ And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

3. FAITHFUL IN SPITE OF TRAGEDIES (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.

A. Joseph was back in the pit again.