



*Live the Dream
Joseph: A Life Shaped by God*

Genesis 39:1-20

March 27, 2011

*IV. Temptation: The Traitor Within! (Genesis 39:1-20; James 1:13-15)
“The devil’s snare does not catch you unless you are first caught by the bait.”
-St. Ambrose*

A. How temptation works...

- ...It appeals to your inner desires.*
- ...It sets a beautiful trap.*
- ...It lures you into that trap with the bait.*
- ...It deceives you into thinking that everything is safe.*
- ...You take the bait not realizing that it is really poison.*
- ...And death soon follows.*

B. JOSEPH: Two things that Joseph did that enabled him to guard his heart, to stand firm, and to resist temptation:

- 1. In his heart, he had resolved to remain faithful both to his earthly master and to His Heavenly Master, God. The reason—he truly loved God.
**The key to resisting temptation is to understand that God must remain the sole love of your heart.*
- 2. When temptation presented itself, Joseph fled.*

C. The HEART: The battle that rages against believers takes place on the inside.

- 1. Temptation is the traitor that operates from within.*
- 2. The battle is being waged in your heart. The heart includes your mind, your will, and your emotions.*
- 3. Your heart will reveal your character.*
- 4. The heart is where you determine to either obey God or disobey Him.*
- 5. Your heart is the place where your affections are born. (Prov 4:23)*

D. David: Three things to learn from his failure.

- 1. He failed to guard his heart at a critical point in his life.*
- 2. A bored man is a vulnerable man.*

3. David was lured into a trap by one of Satan’s oldest baits—a beautiful woman.

E. Sin: Toward an understanding (James 1:13-15)

- 1. The nature of man: We are all born with a sinful nature and that nature is naturally attracted to evil.*
- 2. The nature of desire: Desire is depicted as a mother conceiving and bearing a child, which is sin and whose destiny is death.
a. Greek - Epithumia: a ‘craving,’ or an ‘epi-desire’—that is, an intense desire.*
- 3. The process of sin: Four stages:
a. Stage 1 is desire. The bait will always appeal to an emotion.
“The way sin works is not that we want bad things, but that we want things so badly.” - Tim Keller
b. Stage 2 is deception. When you begin to think about a desired object, your mind begins to rationalize.
c. Stage 3 is disobedience. We have moved from emotion, to intellect, and have arrived at our will.
d. Stage 4 is death. When a believer sins his fellowship with God is severed until he confesses and repents.*
- 4. The reason people sin is because we are enticed away into the arms of another love.
-Tim Keller calls this desire for another lover a fatal attraction.*
- 5. Sin is being drawn to something that you love more than God.
An idol is anything that we love more than God.*
- 6. When your epi-desires seduce you away then conception takes place.
“Conception is something inside you that eventually comes outside.
All sinful actions begin as embryo’s in the heart.” - Tim Keller*

F. The Solution: Work Backwards!

- 1. Focus on desire. The solution is found in the heart. (1 Corinthians 16:13)*
- 2. When temptation first appears you must F-L-E-E!*

F: Feed your mind those things that strengthen your relationship with God! Fear the pain of where sin will take you!

L: Linger not!

E: Establish safeguards!

E: Escape to virtue! Run to those things that are good whatever they may be.