

## SPECIAL SERMON

### *"Temptation, Truth & Triumph"*

#### INTRODUCTION

- **Genesis 39 is a passage about resisting sexual temptation.**
  - A relevant passage in the age that we live in because we live in a time of sexual temptation.
  - Statistics: Pornography industry \$12+ billion a year; Rates of sexual activity outside of marriage up across the board.

#### THE DANGEROUS TEMPTATION IN JOSEPH'S SITUATION (GENESIS 39)

- **Definition of Temptation:** "An enticement to evil or sin." (Something that makes evil look good).  
What made Temptation so Dangerous for Joseph?
  1. He had had a difficult life – Sold into slavery by his brothers (Gen. 37). Easy to fall into self-pity or anger.
  2. He had an easy opportunity.
    - Joseph was attractive (39:6) – most likely 17 or 18 years of age.
    - Joseph was the authority (39:6) – an overseer in Potiphar's house.
    - Expectation of anonymity – there is no one else around.
    - Promise of advancement – possibly this relationship could advance his standing in the household.
  3. There was a persistent threat. Verse 10 indicates this temptation was "day after day". Potiphar's wife used a varied approach: sometimes bold and other times subtle.

#### THE DEFINITIVE TRUTH IN JOSEPH'S RESISTANCE (GENESIS 39)

##### What was it that allowed Joseph to resist temptation?

1. He remembered who's he was and who he was.
  - Joseph defined himself in light of who God had called him to be (Gen 39:2)
  - He lived a life of integrity (Proverbs 11:3).
2. He recognized sin for what it was.
  - He didn't view this as a "misstep", "indulgence", "indiscretion", a "struggle", "brokenness", etc.
  - He called sin for what it was – (v.9 – "great wickedness and sin against God")
3. He refused to play with fire (Proverbs 6:27).
4. He ranked his purity above his prospects – Joseph loses everything, ends up in jail. "no one can fulfill his or her divine destiny by disobeying God." (Alan Ross)

#### THE DIVINE TRIUMPH IN JOSEPH'S LIFE (GENESIS 39)

##### Why is Genesis 39 in the Bible?

- This chapter serves as a contrast to Judah's wickedness in Genesis chapter 35.
- This story further stretches Joseph's faith – prepares him to be the prime minister of Egypt.
- To teach us that God doesn't always remove the circumstances but provides grace.
- To sovereignly advance God's plan of redemption.

Matthew chapter 1 – Jesus comes in fullness of time practically because Joseph maintained his purity.

# Sermon Application Questions

October 27, 2019

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1 Pastor Jason said that if he were to pick one word to define Joseph's life, it would be the word "integrity". Joseph was the same man inside and out.

1 What are some characteristics of Joseph's integrity? How did he demonstrate this integrity in his workplace, his relationships, and his walk with the Lord?

What are some ways that a life of integrity is cultivated in the day-to-day moments of life?

2 One of the reasons why Joseph was able to live a life of integrity was he recognized sin for what it was. He called sin for what it was – "a great wickedness and sin against God." (39:9)

2 What are some of the ways that our society re-defines sin today?

What are some ways that we avoid personal responsibility for sin? (**Hint:** Note the exhortation to avoid comparisons that was part of Pastor Jason's message.)

## DIGGING DEEPER

1 Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Proverbs 6:27-29**

Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched? So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; none who touches her will go unpunished.

### **Proverbs 10:9**

Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out.

### **Proverbs 20:7**

The righteous who walks in his integrity – blessed are his children after him!

### **1 Thessalonians 4:3-7**

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

### **1 Timothy 6:11-12**

But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

### **James 1:13-14**

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

2

**Read Genesis 37:1-36 and Genesis 50:20.** Name some of the ways that great evil was committed against Joseph. Then list some ways that God used this evil as part of His good and perfect plan to bless others.

How does the story of Joseph inform our response when people sin against us?

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

Joseph handled the situation with Potiphar's wife with integrity and as a result he ended up in prison (Genesis 39:20).

Have you ever been in a situation where you honored the Lord, and as a result your circumstances got worse, not better?

Read **Genesis 39:2** and then **Genesis 39:21**. What was the one constant in Joseph's life despite his changing circumstances? How does this truth reassure us when we are in times of trial?

2

Pastor Jason taught us, "God blesses obedience not always immediately, but ultimately in the long run. Now obedience that is motivated out of a love for the Lord will be wasted."

What are some of the ways that God is calling you to obey Him today, even when you don't understand how that will lead to blessing?

How does the life of Joseph encourage you to obey God and trust Him with the results?