

# **Genesis 39**

**How a Wise Person  
Resists Temptation**

# Review

- Joseph is 17 years old. (Gen. 37:2)
- Joseph is the 11<sup>th</sup> of twelve brothers.
- His brothers hated him because their father, Jacob (Israel), showed him favoritism.

# Review

- God gave Joseph two dreams, one showing he would eventually rule over his brothers, the second showing he would rule over his entire family.
- The brother's hatred of Joseph increased and they eventually sold Joseph to the Midianites who enslaved him and took him to Egypt.

# Joseph becomes a Slave 39:1-6

**Genesis 39:1** Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.



Joseph is taken to Egypt and sold to Potiphar, the captain of the guard



## Potiphar gets a bargain

*Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.*



# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

- **Joseph's attitude and actions as Potiphar's slave. (39:1-5)**

<sup>2</sup> The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

- **God's presence was with Joseph because of Joseph's faith in God.**

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

- **Joseph did not allow the wrongs others did to him make him bitter.**
- **Joseph kept a good attitude and became an outstanding “slave.”**
- **God blessed Joseph and those around him were impressed. (39:2)**



# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

<sup>3</sup> His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

- **Joseph did not have a Bible, but he chose to respond to adversity as if he did have a Bible.**
- **The Bible teaches .....**

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

- **God controls our “promotions”**

**Psalm 75:6** For promotion *cometh* neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. <sup>7</sup> But God *is* the judge: he puts down one, and sets up another.

- **Joseph trusted God with his life and future.**

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

- **God wants His followers to do their “work” as unto Him – not as pleasing man.**

<sup>NIV</sup> **Colossians 3:22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but

## Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,<sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

<sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

- **God does not want a Christian to develop and express bad attitudes toward his life's situation.**
- **We have access to an all-powerful God (2 Cor. 10:4-5)**

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

<sup>NET</sup> **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. ... we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ.

- **With God's help, we must take control of our thoughts and bring them into align with Scripture!**



# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

- **God blessed Joseph's good attitude.**

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph found favor in his [Potiphar's] sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

<sup>5</sup> From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that

## Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. <sup>6</sup> So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

# Joseph as a Slave (39:1-6)

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

- We learn about Joseph as a Slave. (Gen. 39:1-6)
- We now learn about Joseph and Temptation. (Gen. 39:7-19)

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

<sup>7</sup> And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." <sup>8</sup> But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

<sup>9</sup> He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

- **Joseph was loyal to God** – the God who allowed his brothers to sell him into slavery!

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

- **Joseph knew that willful wrong doing (sin) is first and foremost against God before it is also against another person. (Psa. 51:4)**
- **Joseph purposed in his heart not to sin against God.**



# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

- **Joseph is incapable of avoiding Potiphar's wife.**

<sup>10</sup> And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. <sup>11</sup> But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

the house was there in the house, <sup>12</sup>  
she caught him by his garment, saying,  
"Lie with me." But he left his garment in  
her hand and fled and got out of the  
house.

- **2 Tim. 2:22** – “Flee youthful passions” – run away from temptation if possible.







# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

<sup>13</sup> And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, <sup>14</sup> she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

loud voice. <sup>15</sup> And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." <sup>16</sup> Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home,



# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

<sup>17</sup> and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. <sup>18</sup> But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." <sup>19</sup> As soon as his master heard

# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled.

- **She accuses her husband of wrong doing to the servants** – “he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us.” – (context = “mock, hold in contempt, ridicule, look down on.”)







# Joseph and Temptation (39:7-19)

- **She accuses Joseph to her husband -**

"The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me.

- We now learn about Joseph in Prison.

# Joseph Put in Prison (39:20)

<sup>20</sup> And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

- Joseph lost his garment but he kept his character!



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# Joseph Put in Prison (39:20)

- **Why did God let bad things happen to Joseph?**

**Psalm 105:17** he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup> His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; <sup>19</sup> until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.



# Joseph Put in Prison (39:20)

- **God allows His followers to be tested to reveal the depth of their commitment.**

**1 Peter 1:3-7** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus

# Joseph Put in Prison (39:20)

Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you

## Joseph Put in Prison (39:20)

have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup>  
so that the tested genuineness of your  
faith-- more precious than gold that  
perishes though it is tested by fire--  
may be found to result in praise and  
glory and honor at the revelation of  
Jesus Christ.

# God Blesses Joseph in Prison

<sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. <sup>23</sup> The keeper of the

# God Blesses Joseph in Prison

prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

- **Joseph served the LORD faithfully.**
- **God allows his followers to be tested.**

# God Blesses Joseph in Prison

- **Mostly likely, the dreams Joseph had from God helped him to keep life's trials in perspective.**
- **He had something good in the future to look forward to.**
- **We have much good in the future to look forward to if we are faithful.**

# God Blesses Joseph in Prison

- **Rev. 2:20 Jesus promises:** “.... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

# Conclusion

## **A wise person knows:**

- Our attitude toward life's problems matters to God.
- We are to seek to do all of life for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31) with a praiseful attitude (Psa. 34:1)



# A Wise Person Knows:

- We are to be faithful and loyal to God in all circumstances and refuse to do wrong.
- That God is watching at all times and rewards faithfulness.

# **Genesis 39**

**Joseph:  
How a Wise Person  
Resists Temptation**