

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 26th June 2022

Hymns Ps 23, 133, 557, 469

Read: Genesis 39:7-12

Text Genesis 39:7-12 Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Temptation (2)

During Joseph's time in Egypt, working in Potiphar's house, Joseph performed his work as unto the Lord.

Joseph recognised, when it came to business matters in the work place, Potiphar was his master.

Joseph lived the presence and power of God and for reason the Lord prospered him, blessing the house and boundaries of Potiphar for Joseph's sake or on account of Joseph.

A midst the time of prosperity, Potiphar's wife who is unnamed, began to view Joseph in a way she had never before, a lustful way.

She was so blinded by lust, driven by carnal desire she overlooked the fact that Joseph was her husband's servant.

Lust caused her to view him as a young man of power, promotion, position, prosperity.

Joseph is a now a target.

From that time, she pursued Joseph, believing Joseph would respond in Favour, fulfil her desires. However, he refused, wanting to glorify God.

The events in Joseph's life were under the Sovereign control of God. Never forget while Joseph is a servant in Egypt, he is in the will of God.

God permitted the place and timing of Joseph's temptation, for many reasons which we will look at, but overall his life is a picture pointing to Christ.

Joseph is the chosen preserver and provider for the nation to save them from death by famine. He will be exalted, and the nation as represented by His brethren will bow before Him.

But before his exaltation, Joseph's life must be examined, He must experience many forms of suffering and sorrow which are part of his humiliation, such as temptation.

He must triumph over temptation for the nation, because through that nation or the tribe of Judah, Christ will be born. To fail means the nation will perish and Christ's seed line destroyed.

Therefore, believer Christ is the chosen Saviour, preserver and provider of sinners He came to save from eternal death. Before His exaltation, Christ's life was examined.

His sufferings were part of His humiliation, He was Tempted, but He triumphs over temptation, because to fail means no salvation for sinners, no church, or victory for believers.

Joseph's victory was temporal and for time, Christ's victory is continual and eternal.

Both have application for our hearts, Joseph's triumph over temptation shows victory over temptation is a reality.

Christ's triumph over temptation assures there is continual victory over continual temptation, because Christ is our victory.

We thought about the permission and period of temptation.

Notice:

III THIRD, THE PLACE OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION

Joseph has gone down into Egypt because God has arranged all the events that took place to bring Joseph where he wants him to be.

Here is the encouragement to the child of God, being tempted as Joseph was or temptation in general does not mean we are out of the will of God or backslidden.

God has placed you in that office, job, school, University, the place you live. He has promoted you, advanced your business, furthered your education, but in this world as we seek to walk in the ways of God, we are surrounded by temptations.

There are four thoughts or ways we can think regarding the PLACE where Joseph was tempted.

Joseph (1) was tempted while living in Egypt, (2) he was tempted in the house where he dwelt, (3) he was tempted while in the work place, and (4) he was tempted when family were not present.

Now remember Joseph has not done anything wrong. The place of his temptation is not a place where he should not be:

He was working, performing his duties as a slave. but as he carries them out, he is walking on spiritual booby traps that will soon explode. There are snares laid for him by this woman, under Satan's influence.

Joseph does his work he is surrounded by enemies.

Remember in the Bible Egypt is a type or picture of the world, in all its wicked systems against the gospel, it, bondage false religions,

Philosophical educational system, its treasures and pleasures. Its ungodly rulers and government officials.

Furthermore. since Egypt is located in this world, then it bears the marks of sin.

Joseph is brought into Potiphar's house and it is there in the house, the place of work, he is tempted.

Potiphar's wife seeks a favourable response from Joseph.

Therefore, believer in all four areas we will be tempted.

Tempted as we live in this world marked by sin. Tempted as we dwell in the house, tempted at the work, school, Tempted when family is not present.

You may experience the same temptation as Joseph, and at in each place.

What you battle against or the temptation you face, may be the same temptation you face in the home, and outside the home.

A person or thing may pursue you by words and trouble your mind.

The point I'm making is this, as we live in this world, this arena, battle ground, is where our temptations takes place.

why because this is the place we live for Christ and identify with Him but we are not of the world.

The devil knows, the redeemed of the Lord are guaranteed heaven, they are safe and secure. He can never steal a believer's salvation. But he can and does seek to ruin a believer life.

You are going to heaven for eternal rest and joy, but on the way the devil will shake you, to ruin your life, home, marriage, service, job performances, church fellowship.

The temptation or what you are up against may be different, but it is still a temptation.

Now remember to be tempted is not sin, but temptation becomes sin when we desire what we are tempted with or by.

When the temptation is attractive, appealing and accommodates our desires.

It becomes sin when we want a second look, a closer investigation, when we respond with favour to that which is against God.

Joseph is tempted but he does not respond with favour.

In Joseph's case it was a woman's temptation to commit adultery, to covet who she should not have.

No matter where Joseph goes the temptation follows him, calling out to him, **lie with me**

Now that may be the same temptation you are facing, a new situation, it may be a married woman or man pursuing you.

At temptation at school, the work place, it may be a sexual sin in the home, on devices, or when others are not around.

It maybe young people your battling, feelings, changes, someone desires you with purpose, and your purity is on the line,

To broaden the application, for some the temptation may be to steal, to lie, to cut corners, do a poor job, try new things, just to stay in the crowd.

it may be physical but also spiritual, visual or mental images stored in the mind.

Remember, Temptations seek to impact the members of our body, **the eyes** are under attack to keep looking, **the mind** is under attack to store what we look at, and to recall it, **the ears** are tempted to listen more,

the tongue is tempted to engage, open up conversation, negotiate. **the hands** are tempted to touch, to take, reach out, **the feet** are tempted to walk closer.

The legs are tempted to sit a bit longer and not get up.

Every situation will seek a response from your body to satisfy the flesh.

But Joseph does not give in to temptation, because the Lord is with Him.

He knows the presence and power of God. He is Spirit filled, he delights to obey God, he has a high view of God, as he said in

verse 9 how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Think of the temptations of Christ in **Matthew 4**, they are also repeated in the gospels of Mark and Luke. The very fact we read ***Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil***, does not mean He was out of God's will.

Rather Christ's temptations were in the will of God.

The word **led up** means **to carry along, to navigate**, The Spirit brought Christ where God purposed Him to be.

(The Holy Spirit is a divine person. Now false cults will say the Holy Spirit is not a divine person, rather a force, influence, However, the Holy Spirit is divine person, who knows the will of the Godhead.

Paul said in **1 Cor 2:10**, ***the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.***

The word "**searcheth**" does not suggest that the Spirit is trying to find out the will of God, but Rather, it means The Holy Spirit being a divine person with an infallible knowledge of the divine will, will never lead anyone in contradiction against or away from the things of God.)

God decreed Christ be in the wilderness, because He will be tempted of the devil and He will resist the devil, defeating Him by sinlessness and scripture.

He came down from heaven. This world was the place he dwelt, the place He came to carry out His redeeming work to save a people.

(Therefore, Christ's temptations belong to His humiliation, they are part of His sufferings for our sakes and salvation. His temptations are a demonstration of His true humanity.)

(In order to save sinners, Christ must identify with sinners, by taking unto His deity a human nature. Christ came to save fallen humanity, and so He must be a man (Himself. In His humanity He became subject to temptation, as permitted by God.)

But The devil tempted Him, seeking response.

If to be tempted was a sin, then Christ was a sinner like you and me.

However, since Christ is holy, harmless and undefiled, the perfect and sinless one, then when He was tempted, he did not respond with favour. He did not give in, desire anything that was offered.

Paul said of Christ in Hebrews 4:15 He "***was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*** The words "**without sin**" mean, ***apart from sin or sinlessly***. The truth taught is that while Christ was tempted with the highest viciousness, He did not sin.

The temptations brought against Him were real and wicked, but there was absolutely no response in Christ to those temptations.

The temptations presented to Him by the devil did not arouse any response in Him to contradict the impeccable holiness of His nature.

Jesus spoke of His own impeccability, sinless perfection in John 14:30 "***for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.*** he could find nothing.

Christ knows the temptations you face, the struggles you battle. He sympathies with you in them, and prayer for you through them.

God permitted Christ to be tempted, that He would win victory for you.

Joseph's life shows, that Christians can have victory over their battle with temptation and tempters on earth, Jesus life and death shows this victory comes through His victory over temptation and the tempter on earth.

On earth there are rivals to face but in heaven there are none, only praise our saviour for all eternity.

We thought about the permission, period and place of temptation. Notice:

III FOURTH, THE PONDERING OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION.

verse 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.*”

The phrase “*...cast her eyes upon*” not only refers to see with the eyes, but it also includes desires of the mind.

In other words what Potiphar's wife sees in Joseph she desired him.

She ponders over Joseph, she looks upon him in way she ought not to. Her mind is consumed about Joseph.

(The question must be asked why did Potiphar's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and what was it about Joseph she desired.)

Notice the last words in **verse 6** “*...and Joseph was a goodly person and well favoured.*”

The word **goodly** refers to **his attraction**. He is a handsome man. The word **well favoured** refers to **his appearance**.

No doubt Joseph gets his good looks from his mother's side and in particular his mother Rachel, because we learn in **Genesis 29:17** “*Leah (Joseph's auntie) was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.*”

Also, Potiphar wife, knew the words that Joseph spoke of himself in **verse 9** were true, ***There is none greater in this house than I;***. Joseph may be a slave, but he is slave above slaves.

Joseph is a good looking young man. He is pleasant, successful, obedient, good worker, faithful, honest, because all he does the Lord makes it to prosper.

Joseph is now a target of her lust. She has ***cast her eyes upon Joseph...***” she desires what she should not have, and who she should not have. The very fact **verse 7** states this woman is ***his master’s wife***, then she is married to Potiphar.

Therefore, Joseph calls this woman’s lust for what it is in **verse 9** ***great wickedness, and sin against God?***

It is interesting to note that sin came into the world, by casting the eyes upon and desiring what God had forbidden.

in **Genesis 2**, God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and told them they could freely eat all the fruit of all the trees in the Garden except the fruit of one tree which was in middle of the garden.

There you see, nothing wrong with desiring or fixing the mind upon what God has given to enjoy, but it is sinful to desire what God has forbidden,

God commanded our first parents, in **Gen 3:3** concerning the forbidden tree ***“ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”*** This tree is named in **Gen 2:17** ***“...the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...”***

However, **Gen 3:6** says ***“when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (the forbidden tree), and that it was pleasant to the eye and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit therefore, and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat.”***

Did you notice the words **saw, pleasant, desired**, they signify **to fix the mind upon to lust after**/ Remember Eve has coveted after that which God forbids, that makes it lustful, sinful.

She could have had any of the other trees, but the one forbidden was the one Eve desired.

The word "**saw**" signifies in Hebrew "**to behold with intention purposely**" there was a purpose in Eve's sight and that was to take what she saw.

Before Eve had even touched the tree, she had already sinned within her heart because she desired what God had forbidden, she responded, that desire turned into action.

Eve fell into grievous sin because she did not guard the eye gate. She let her eyes feast on the forbidden, and as a result, fell into great sin.

Potiphar's wife has committed sin in that she desired Joseph and she acts upon that desire, but Joseph does not respond.

This sin of sight, desire pondering is how the devil tempted Christ, seeking him to ponder what was offered. looking for a response to consider what was offered.

Notice in **Mathew 4:3-9** *The devil tempted Christ to ponder the stones, desire bread act upon it. or the temple, or kingdoms, but Christ succeeded, because He thought upon what pleased God, scripture.*

Psalm 119:11 *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

when temptation comes, have your mind stayed upon the Lord. Have the highest thoughts of Christ, ponder upon Him, quote scripture, and enter into His victory, its yours to claim.

Christ was tempted for you but He was triumphant for you, that in your temptation you will experience and enjoy victory and each victory will lead to another victory to win.