

Chapter 39

Once again, after chapter 34 with Dinah and chapter 38 with Tamar, we have another chapter where a sexual scandal is the main event of the chapter.

39:1-3

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer In some versions this could be translated “eunuch.” One would wonder if this is why his wife later has sexual interest in Joseph. **of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites** Humanly speaking, they should not have existed. This was Abraham’s foul. Somehow, now, Ishmael is numerous in his descendants. **who had taken him down there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.** This is why Joseph is ultimately trusted with the estate of Potiphar.

39:4-5

So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; Genesis 31 finds Jacob being a blessing to the household of Laban simply because the Lord was with him. This is a pattern, to say the least, of God blessing those around His people for the sake of His people. Also, Genesis 20 and Genesis 26 find Abimelech being blessed because of the presence of Abraham and Isaac. These are lessons that God blesses us despite the wicked, and then sometimes blesses the wicked because of us. Sometimes the reason He keeps us in certain places at the cost of our comfort is so that He can save others from certain calamity. **and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.**

36:6

Thus he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. “It’s all in hand with you. Call me for lunch. I’ll be golfing.” He trusted Joseph.

Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. This is the first time a male’s appearance is mentioned, and it “just so happens” that this is the way his mother Rachel is described in Genesis 29:17. **7 And it came to pass after these things that his master’s wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, “Lie with me.”**

Apparently, ladies can be attracted to men’s appearance. So much for the so-called notion that they are not interested in sex and are just turned on emotionally. If it’s true at all, this woman was unusual. God gave both Adam and Eve coats of skin. It’s not just women who should be modest. Women can be enticed as well.

8 But he refused and said to his master’s wife, “Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. Joseph felt the weight of being trusted so heavily.

9 There is no one greater in this house than I, Potiphar trusted Joseph even more than his own wife. This is an interesting piece of information when one considers whether this was a virtuous woman or not. **nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”** This was not a sin against Potiphar primarily. It was a sin against God. This is quite a well-developed understanding of sin which may be a reflection of his sense of God’s presence in his life earlier in this chapter. The biggest issue for Joseph was that he was upsetting the Lord. This is why we have a world full of people who have not made the connection between their conduct and their destiny.

39:11-16

But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside, We will not implicate Joseph. It is a huge building, no doubt, and he has little or no knowledge of who is behind every turn or in every room. **12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.** This is the 2nd time Joseph lost his coat. Folks can take anything from you, but they don’t have to take your identity. They can you’re your coat, but you have to surrender your character. You don’t have to change just because people hope to change you. **13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, 14 that she**

called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, “See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. She goes from lying about Joseph to slandering her husband’s judgment. **15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside.”**

16 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. She had a lot of time to do this and that being in a pampered, powerful position. Ezekiel 16:47-48 tell us that Sodom’s sexual sin was a result of their idleness, in part. She had time to offer daily propositions to Joseph?

39:20-21

Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. This could be just “saving face.” I mean, what do you do if your woman is running around after a servant? So even if he knew his wife’s character....he couldn’t let her take the fall. Think about Vashti, the king at the beginning of Esther. The reason she was disposed of had nothing to do with her transgression as much as news getting around that the queen was getting away with being insubordinate. The idea was that other wives would find out and do the same thing to their husbands. **21 But the LORD was with Joseph** even in prison. He isn’t alone. **and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.**

39:22-23

And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. 2nd time, same chapter. **23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph’s authority,** He and Potiphar are playing golf and wondering how they both had this handy fellow in their jurisdiction. Perhaps the jailer knew the story about Joseph in Potiphar’s home and maybe Potiphar knew Joseph was in that particular jail. Perhaps they didn’t spend time around each other either. **because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.**