

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 24th July 2022 Hymns Psalm 119v73-80 t Martyrdom,20, 566 T 431 Read: Genesis 39:11-19 Text Genesis 39:11-19

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Falsely Accused (1)

When Joseph was bought as a slave to serve in the house of Potiphar, the Lord blessed and prospered Joseph. As a godly young man, Joseph set the Lord before him always.

Away from his Father at Hebron and now living in Egypt, **Joseph did not allow his circumstances or the country, company, customs, culture, corruptions, and curiosities of Egypt to ruin his life.** Rather wherever Joseph was, he lived for the Saviour. He kept himself pure.

Off course we know from, **2 Timothy 3:12** **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.** The reason being the life transformed by grace will always be tested and challenged.

there are foes to face along the way such as the flesh, world and devil, all wanting you to fail, to stop praying, reading the Bible, attending God house, to become unusable, unhappy and unrecognisable.

Why because these are the means of grace which cause believers to grow in grace.

Continually use them and there is no secret what God can do will a live given over to Him.

Therefore, in the place of work, and area Joseph lived, his master's wife casts her eyes upon him, lusting after him and speaking to him to lie with her.

Joseph suffered a time of temptation, however by the presence and power of the Lord, Joseph refused, and fled. Joseph could not commit this great wickedness and sin against God.

As a result the tempter now becomes the accuser.

Once again there is a clear link to Christ, who in His humanity was tempted of the wicked one, and then accused, however, Christ overcame temptation and answered every accusation by His sinless life and substitutionary death.

Therefore, as our Sympathising High priest, He understands every temptation and false accusation, He is able to come to our aid.

When all is against us, there is one who is always for us.

Joseph is Falsely Accused It is with the Lord's help I want to consider with you those words, **Joseph is Falsely Accused and make application.**

I FIRST, THE CHARGE OF JOSEPH BEING FALSELY ACCUSED.

In **verses 13-19** we have the false charge brought against Joseph by Potiphar's wife.

The wording of the false charge against Joseph is recorded at the end of **verse 14** and the first part of **verse 15** "*...he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: ¹⁵ And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.*

We can tell by how this woman spoke of Joseph, she's obsessed with him. At the start Potiphar's wife was happy to tempt, but since she was refused and rejected, she is now embarrassed, she has made a full of herself.

Knowing that Joseph fled to keep his purity, and she had grabbed his coat, or garment by her hands, she uses that to create a web of lies, a false accusation.

She takes her lies and makes it sound the truth.

What is interesting to note, that when this woman was tempting Joseph and made her move, she made sure none of the men were in the house. She wanted no one there.

Since her plan has failed, in order to support her lies, she holds the garment, notice the opening words of **verse 14** “ **she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them...**”

Her false accusation was repeated to her husband in **verses 17-19**, but with the closing words “**after this manner did thy servant to me...**” or in the way as verse **verse 15** “**...he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:**

There is nothing worse than being falsely accused, lied against, about anything neither mind a wicked crime.

It can leave one feeling emptied, broken, drained, alone, shocked.

Remember in the book of Nehemiah, the enemies of gospel, despised the fact that Nehemiah was called of God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. They made every attempt to cause the work to cease.

One of those leading opposers was Sanballat and ch 6 he sends his servant to Nehemiah with **an open letter in his hand**. meaning the details of the letter were open for all to see and read.

His plan was for his servant and others to read the letter and spread its details around.

When this open letter was delivered, there was a terrible accusation against God's servant. **V6 Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it,**

that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. ⁷

Sanballat accuses Nehemiah in **verse 6** that the people of God were rebels, that Nehemiah wanted to be king of Persia, and that was his only motive in the building walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah is accused of planning a takeover against the King who gave him permission and supplies to build the walls.

This accusation was based on the words in **v6** '**it was reported**', in other words I've been told from others. Though there was no proof but taking the evidence of building a wall and turning it into an evil accusation.

This was another tactic of the wicked one to hinder the work of God and bring casualties in the work.

The devil wanted Nehemiah side-lined, off the field of service. The building or work of God to stop.

Since Nehemiah refused to join, then he must be taken out.

Just as the devil wanted Joseph hindered and side lined.

Scripture gives many examples of believers falsely accused such as Moses, Naboth, Elijah, Job, Daniel, and Paul. The Lord's disciples also suffered false accusations The chief priest heard about the risen Christ, **Matt 28:12-13** "***and when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers,***

¹³ Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole Him away while we slept.

None more so that the Lord Jesus Christ. In the public ministry of Christ, He also had false witness brought against Him. **Matt 26:59-60**

“Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death; ⁶⁰ But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses.”

These two just repeated what He said, about His death and resurrection. But the point is, they “**sought false witness against Jesus, to put Him to death.**” it was an intense search, anyone with anything, make something up, **to put Him to death.**

This is what was happening to Joseph in principle, only a different method through the lust of the eyes, & lies of a false accusation.

May I say unto you this is no different to what the devil does daily at the throne of God to accuse believers.

Like the High Priest Joshua, in **Zechariah 3:1** “**Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.**” The word **resist** means **satan, oppose, withstand, or Adversary.** Satan accuses you, seeks to resist you daily.

Revelation 12:10 refers to Satan “which accused them before our God day and night.”

Paul said in **Roman 8:33** **Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?**

The key word is **charge**, it is one word in the original which means **bring us an accusation**. The idea is to call in question, to call something against someone.

In other words calling upon God to take a second look, or to have another view of that sinner.

But Paul's response to this question “...**it is God that justifieth.**” The word **justifieth** is the standard meaning of **justification or to justify**, it is to declare righteous, to fully pardon from all sin.

Paul's point is this, when God justifies an ungodly and unrighteous sinner, there can never be any accusation which will stand against that believer for their destruction.

But take encouragement, because we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ the righteous. He alone stands for us and silences, rebukes the accusation, answering every accusation by His Atoning blood.

God will always vindicate His people.

II SECOND, THE CONTEMPT IN JOSEPH BEING FALSELY ACCUSED.

having to act quickly Potiphar's wife makes up a story, falsely accusing Joseph,

she then, LASHES OUT, slandering Joseph. **The very person she desired, is now the very person she degrades. The very one she lusted after she now tells lies against.**

See how quickly lust turns to hate.

When Potiphar's wife failed to seduce Joseph, she then tried slandering him.

Notice her words in **verse 14** "***he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us;***

She labels Joseph "***an Hebrew***" to reproach him and set him in opposition to the other servants, **not just nationally, but spiritually.**

The phrase ***Hebrew*** singled out Joseph as one who worshipped Jehovah the everlasting God, the true and living God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and its people.

It showed that Joseph did not worship the many false gods that the Egyptians worshipped.

The name and identification goes back to Abraham the father of the Jewish nation, and the father of a spiritual family in Christ, **Genesis 14:13** ***Abram the Hebrew*** Galatians 3, teaches that Abraham believed the gospel it was preached unto him, he was

justified by God through faith alone in Christ the promised Saviour.

God, later told Moses in speaking to the children of Israel and to Pharaoh, use the name in **Ex 3:18 *The LORD God of the Hebrews***

Jonah said in **Jonah 1:9 *I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.***

There is contempt, hatred, disdain, and scorn against Joseph because she could not get her wicked way, fulfil her lust, indulge in the pleasures of sin.

Joseph exposed her plot as great wickedness and sin against God. He is an Hebrew, not only nationally, but spiritually worshipped.

Both Potiphar and his wife knew Joseph belonged to Jehovah, they could what was states years later in the days of Moses, **Exodus 11:7 “...*the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.***

That difference, is redemption through the blood of Christ.

Remember the Lord Jesus teaches believers His sermon on the mount, in **Matthew 5:11 *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*** Persecution comes in various forms, verbal, mental and physically.

Contempt against believers is experienced by Shaming - The word "**revile**" signifies **to insult, to reproach, evil language.**

it shows us shaming persecution is verbal. To disgrace, dishonour, abuse, shame.

Potiphar's wife is insulting Joseph to others, speaking evil of him. But it is interesting to note we do not read of Joseph

starting a war of words. Though he is reviled he does not revile this wicked woman.

Once again we are brought to the Lord Jesus Christ, Consider the life of Christ, **John 8:48; John 10:20,21** He was accused of being demon possessed.

Matthew 26:65 at the crucifixion trials He was accused of blasphemy, and condemned to death for it in **Matthew 27:39** and when He was on the cross they still continued to attack Him verbally—"**They that passed by reviled him**". **1 Peter 2:22-23** "**neither was guile found in his mouth Who, when He was reviled reviled not again.**"

As Peter said in **verse 21** **even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

You see believer its natural when insulted to insult back, to shout back, shame greater, go further, but it takes one who is spiritually minded, spirit filled to remain silent, trusting the situation over to God, acknowledging He has a purpose in it all.

Contempt against believers is experienced by Severity. "**and persecute you.**"

the word persecute means **to chase, harass, hunt down, pursue, not to give up.** **Potiphar's wife would not give up on Joseph.**

Again we see Christ a greater than Joseph, through His whole life on earth from His birth until the cross, His enemies hunted Him down, they would not give up.

At His childhood, Matthew 2:13 "**Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.** During His public ministry, **Matthew 12:14** "**Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy Him.** Then at His crucifixion **Matthew 27:20** "**but the chief priests and elders**

persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.”

Maybe that’s how you feel at work, school community, like Joseph, the pressure is on. Your not alone.

You by Joseph refusing her lust, and stating it would be sin against God, and by her calling him the Hebrew, differing him from others, showed the gospel light in his life exposed the darkness of her heart.

In lashing out at Joseph, was really to lash out at Christ who said in John 15:18-19 “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

Contempt against believers is experienced by Slander. “And shall say all manner of evil against you falsely.” The thought is to silence by discrediting their testimony. The attempt is to deceive by falsehood, to lie or to speak falsely or deceitfully.

Potiphar’s wife is slandering Joseph, to mar, scar his testimony.

Luke 7:34 “The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!”

The Apostle Paul in **Heb 12:3** urges God's people to consider Christ as Supreme example of suffering. the One who "***endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself.***"

The word in the original for ***contradiction*** comes from a root verb that means ***to speak against***. Christ was, is and be will spoken against until He comes again and judges the world.

The enemy slanders the Lord’s people.

Believer learn the Lord was with Joseph,

Every sovereign permission comes with His purpose, every situation comes with a sight of Christ.

if God be for us who can be against us. Believer that hard time your passing through will end, but until it does, trust in Him at times, God is a refuge for us.