

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 Hymns Ps 127 T- Rowan Tree 134, 632, 571. Read: Genesis 39:7-12  
Text Genesis 39:7-12

Series: Joseph (24) Title: Joseph's Temptation (3)

We have been considering Joseph's temptation by Potiphar's wife.

Joseph is Potiphar's servant; he has been bought for the purpose to serve him and perform the duties whatsoever he said unto him to do.

It was during this time, when Potiphar was away on business, that Joseph was tempted (1) while he was living in Egypt, (2) he was tempted in the house where he dwelt, (3) he was tempted while in the workplace, and (4) he was tempted when family were not present.

This woman wanted Joseph to respond with favour, to desire her, and fulfil her lust.

However, Joseph refused and rejected this temptation.

Therefore, we discovered, that to be tempted is not sin, to come under temptation is not sin, nor does temptation indicate that we our living in disobedience to God.

there are times that may be the case but not always.

Joseph life proves this was not the case with him. He is where God wants him to be. **Psalm 105:17 He, the Lord sent a man before them, even Joseph who was sold for a servant."**

However, temptation becomes sin when we respond with favour, when we desire with purpose that which is forbidden, when we want to know more and go a little further, when we

consider how to partake without getting caught, and long it can last.

This woman wanted Joseph to continue living in sin.

But Joseph did not respond, in fact Joseph said in **Gen 40:15** he had "**done nothing...**

Another reason that to suffer temptation or to be tempted is not sin, is because Jesus Christ Himself was tempted, He suffered a time of extreme temptation, greater than Joseph or any other.

Christ did not respond to the Devil with favour, rather He defeated Him.

If Christ had responded with favour during His time of temptations, then He would have failed, fallen into sin, and be a sinner like all men in need of a Saviour.

However, in His sinless humanity, His impeccability, sinless perfection, the Bible teaches, Christ in **Hebrews 4:15** "**was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.** **1 John 3:5** "...**in Him is no sin.**

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.

Upon this basis, Christ was tempted by the devil, to defeat the devil, showing by His sinless life, He is the Saviour of all His people, and He earns the victory for them over the enemy's attack.

Christ's victory over temptation means believer, Christ earned victory for you over temptation, power not to respond with Favour, but sufficient grace to refuse upon the ground of Scripture, looking to the person and work of Christ, and

having the highest view of God, knowing that He hates sin, only will you be able to say as Christ, get thee hence Satan, and as Joseph, **verse 9 how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?**

Plead the BOOK and the BLOOD, The INSPIRED WORD and the INCARNATE WORD, to overcome temptation.

Joseph and Christ's temptation teach believers, Temptation will come at any place, and time.

But Joseph's temptation and refusal shows victory over temptation is a reality, that can be enjoyed.

Christ's temptation and Victory over temptation proclaim He is our Conqueror and constant victory.

Already we have considered, **The Permission, Period, Place, and Pondering, of Joseph's temptation.**

## **V FIFTH, THE PERSISTENCY OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION.**

**Verse 10 "And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her"**

Every day Joseph is under attack in Egypt, at the place of work. This woman never gave up tempting Joseph.

The same occurred with Samson another mighty man of God.

The philistines couldn't stop Samson. God's presence and power rested upon Him, and he won victory and victory.

However, Samson a believer, started to date an unbeliever named Delilah. A woman who pleased Samson but not the Lord.

The Philistines, wanted to know where Samsons strength lay.

They wanted him powerless, and weak, in order to defeat him, and so they used this ungodly woman to find out the secret of

samson's power. **Verse 6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength lieth, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.**

but Samson withholds the sacred information.

Delilah does not give up, she comes again with the same question, **verse 10 I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.** She is now getting desperate. But once again Samson does not give the right answer.

All her plans have failed. Then Delilah makes **a third attempt.** Delilah does not give up, she goes again, this time emotional black mail,

**verses 15-16 “and she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;**

Her persistency has paid off. **Verse 17 “... he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.**

The hair symbolised Samson's strength, as one set apart for God, who had the presence and power of God in His life.

When Samson sleeps, Delilah shaves his hair off, and then the philistines come, and Samson goes to war with his enemies, but this time he suffers a heavy defeat, and ruins him, and he bears the marks and scars of it, leaving him blind.

Delilah persistently tempted Samson, to find a way that he would lose God's presence and power, and she succeed.

Samson was defeated because the Lord's presence and power departed from him for a time, why because Samson give in to Delilah's persistent temptation.

Here is the consequence when a believer dates or marries an unsaved person, the devil aims that you will live without the presence and power of God.

He persists to ruin your life, fellowship, and service for God.

There is the temptation to miss Church more than usual, not read the Bible, not pray, feed the flesh, all to please the person involved.

Maybe there is a future minister, elder, committee man, missionary, children's worker, prayer warrior, among us.

Take note, the devil will persist, he will not give up on you, because he wants to ruin you that you will never reach that place of service and victory.

Joseph knows the power and presence of God in his life, he is prospering, and so the devil uses Potiphar's wife to attack this very area of his life, by tempting him to sin against God.

Unlike Samson, Joseph succeeded. He won the victory for His brethren.

By Joseph we are reminded that temptation is a daily experience and must be overcome on a daily basis.

This surely leads us to consider Christ, a greater than Joseph. In the wilderness, the devil persistently tempted Christ.

Three separate occasions, he tempted Christ, that the power of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit upon Him, would depart.

we read in **Luke 4:13** “***And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.*** Notice he didn’t depart for good, only a time, meaning he would come back again.

He did so by various attempts that were made to kill Christ, such as in **Luke 4: 28-29, John 7: 1, 8: 59, & 10: 31.**

Since Satan has been a murderer from the beginning there is no doubt that he was behind these attempts to slay the Saviour in order to prevent Him from going to the cross to accomplish redemption.

Christ was persistently tempted by the devil throughout his life, but each time Christ won the victory.

Therefore, learn we will be persistently tempted time and time again. like Christ each may be different but all the same result to cause you disobey God.

Learn, Christ was tempted in His true humanity, He is a man of sorrows and identifies with our temptations, that’s why Paul said in **Hebrews 2:18** “***for in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour the that are tempted.***”

The words **tempted** mean **to be tested**. Christ knows the testing and trials of His people, and all that they are permitted to bear, because He took our humanity unto Himself.

He suffered every sorrow known to man.

Therefore, as a true man, He sympathises with His people, and in their time of testing, **He is able to succour the that are tempted.** The word **succour** means **to run to the aid of, to help.**

Therefore, during persistent temptations that surround and come upon us, the Lord understands, and He runs to our help and leads to victory.

## **VI SIXTH, THE PRESSURE OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION.**

Notice again the words of Potiphar's wife. **Verse 7** "*she said, Lie with me. Verse 12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me...*"

I hope we have seen by now that Joseph was continually put under pressure to sin. Joseph had to handle the situation scripturally and carefully.

She made every attempt to corner Joseph. **Verse 10** *she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.*

Maybe she thought, since Joseph was a servant and she was the master's wife then he would have to obey her, do what she commanded.

But he would not listen.

Potiphar's wife is crafty, sneaky, she plans every detail she has everything timed. She had thought about this for some time.

look at **verse 11** "*And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.*"

At this moment her temptation is to make physical contact and for Joseph to respond in favour. **Before, it was looks, and words, now it's contact.**

Of course to the master's wife this is not sin, but fooling around, trying something new, no one will ever know. But to

Joseph it is sin against God, it is losing the presence and power of God for a season.

**The point of her pressure is that at some point Joseph will give in.** There was much going on in Joseph's life. He's been given responsibilities from his master, work to do, he is busy.

She seeks and waits for a weakness, a hesitancy in Joseph, tiredness, a loss on concentration, that at some point he will give in. She tries to weary him with her much asking.

**Put him into a position, that if he does not fulfil her desire, there will be consequences. Really blackmail.**

Therefore, believer, the devil tempts you, by constant pressure, he looks for a weakness, or in a hard situation, that you will give in.

When it comes to money shortage you have the promise give and it shall be given unto you, they who honour God, He will honour them, yet the devil will tempt you to steal from God to withhold giving.

when exams are coming up the Lord will give wisdom to any who asks it, He will bless your hard study, yet the devil will tempt you to cheat.

When things are hard at home, you need prayer, call upon the Lord and He will answer, He will shew thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not, yet the devil will tempt you to walk out, leave the home, and fall into sin.

Believer, the devil will make you unhappy, dissatisfied, with how things are at church and when there are discouragements in the work of God,



Christ is He is able to encourage, but the devil tempts, with pressure building up, its better's to kick up fuss, or leave.

(Already we have looked at some examples that could be repeated here, but to change the temptation from adultery to bearing false witness, but still with the thought of pressure, think about Peter.

Peter was under pressure when he was tempted to deny the Lord and he did. Off course the Lord has already states that Peter would deny Him three times, **yet Peter denies that He will deny the Lord.**

So, what took place in **Luke 22.**

Peter sits down among a crowd of people to watch from a distance as Christ is arrested. **Luke 22:56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him.**

Peter is now under pressure; **this woman singles him out. Peter panics** <sup>57</sup> **And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not.**

<sup>58</sup> **And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not.** <sup>59</sup> **And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaeen.** <sup>60</sup> **And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.))**

Think of Jesus Christ no person has ever been or will face the extreme and intense pressure he did from the devil.

In the wilderness, the Temptation differed but the devil was pressuring Christ to disobey the Father and question is own sonship.

Remember the crafty words by the devil. **Matthew 4:3** “***the tempter came to Him, he said, If thou be the Son of God...***” Christ is the Son of God.

The devil desired to be worshipped, he attacked Christ's person, position, pre-eminence and proclamation.

In tempting the Lord to worship him, Satan's thrust was again aimed at the sonship of Christ,

in that had Christ worshipped Satan He would have denied His Father in heaven and would have called into question His own sonship.

The devil pressures you, in temptation that you will disobey God, he wants your life to be a contradiction, that your words, like Lot will fall on deaf ears to those in need.

The devil tempts you, if you are really a Christian you would have great possessions, good health, your bank account should have extra numbers, no troubles no worries, there will be a doubt does God really love you can you be certain He will provide? The whole point is for you to agree with the devil and doubt God.

On other words, have a low view of God.

These temptations are real, believers battled this day by day. But be assured believer Christ is our Jehovah Jireh our provider, Our Saviour and Salvation, our Justifier and Justification, our Propitiation and Peace, our Sanctifier and Sanctification, our Sympathiser and Support, our Supplier and Supply. He is our all in all.

We do well to pray as David, lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Christ is our Shelter and Safety in temptation.

But unsaved, you are tempted to think you can get to heaven another way, many ways and you have responded to that temptation with favour, it appeals to your flesh, that salvation depends upon you, and you believe it, otherwise you would have abandoned every false way, and only confess sin to Christ, believing on Him alone for the forgiveness of sin.

Christ victory over Satan assures He is the only Saviour, who is able to defeat Satan and deliver sinners from sins eternal punishment.