

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER TWO – GENESIS 39:1-23

INTRODUCTION:

W. Graham Scroggie in his book *Tested by Temptation* says this, “He who most closely follows God will be most closely followed by the devil. Never can we engage in any act of true surrender without exposing ourselves to the onslaught of this great foe. You have but to pursue the path of loyal obedience to the known will of God and you shall certainly have Diabolus in hot pursuit of you.”

Innocent and necessary wants may be the devil’s levers to overturn our souls. All our bodily appetites and natural cravings should be satisfied only in the will of God and for His glory; never at the instigation of the devil or the selfish notions of the flesh.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse that great Presbyterian preacher of bygone days said, “I once heard the story of the dear old colored man who lived such a life of triumph with the Lord that he was asked, ‘What do you do when you are tempted?’ And he answered, ‘I just pray, “Lord, your property is in danger!’” And we are His property. He has redeemed us at such a price that He will take care of us; He loves us, and will bring us through.”

And then Gary Inrig wrote a book called *Quality Friendship: The Risks and Rewards* and he quotes from C.S. Lewis in one of the chapters and says this, “Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which a few months later you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or in anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.”

And then finally, Chuck Swindoll has written a great little book on this subject called *Three Steps Forward, Two Steps Back* and Swindoll is quoting here:

“In our members there is a slumbering inclination towards desire which is both sudden and fierce. With irresistible power desire seizes mastery over the flesh. All at once a secret, smoldering fire is kindled. The flesh burns and is in flames. It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power, or greed for money, or finally, that strange desire for the beauty of the world, or nature. Joy in God is...extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature.

At this moment God is quite unreal to us, he loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real, the only reality is the devil. Satan does not here fill us with hatred of God, but with forgetfulness of God. And now his falsehood is added to this proof of strength. The lust thus aroused envelops the mind and will of man in deepest darkness.”

Now in our last study together we saw Joseph much-loved by his father Jacob but we also saw him much-hated by the other 11 brothers.

The hatred ledger had grown at least to the degree of four:

- 1. There was hatred at least because he was loved as the son of his old age.**
- 2. He was hated because he was a man who had dreams.**
- 3. Who had the coat.**
- 4. And now as a result of that they have gotten him sold into the land of Egypt.**

And that brings us to the end of that episode when Reuben pled for his life and then Judah suggested that they sell him and they sold him into Egypt and into the house of Potiphar. And that opens the scene for today’s study.

Pick up with me if you will at verse one.

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v. 1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt, Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

How is Joseph going to respond to this? He is 17. He has had fabulous dreams of grandeur. And now he finds himself a slave.

Can you imagine in your wildest dreams what it would have been like to have made a 250 mile trip separate from your family and knowing you are probably never going to see them again?

Can you take something like that and down that old dusty road to be treated as nothing more than a slave with no rights?

Can you imagine what it would have been like as he prayed earnestly that when he got to the slave market somebody would buy him that would be a good person?

Or does Joseph actually still believe in his dreams to the point that he can say, "well this has just got to be part of God's plan.

We are going to be patient. We are going to hang in there. And it's all going to work out."

Now we don't know too many people like that but do you suppose that he might have been. Could it have been?

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Do you suppose that maybe his first night in the sleeping bag in the slave train that God could have said “Joseph it is going to be alright, you know just keep hanging in there everything is going to be fine, this is just part of my plan that you don’t understand, you just be confident now and trust me.”

Now our verse tells us that he gets one good answer to prayer. He is sold into Potiphar’s house.

Now Potiphar is an Egyptian official of the king of the land. He is the captain of the bodyguard. Now that means that he is responsible for carrying out all the public executions, he did whatever the king wanted him to do, he was in charge of the Secret Service and the FBI and Homeland Security. And the only problem working for a guy like that, one mistake and it is off with your head. So he is sold into the house of Potiphar.

Verse 2 is great!

v. 2 The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Look at that! “The Lord was with Joseph.”

Just because he left Canaan and went to Egypt, God did not leave him. The Lord is still with him. This little phrase summarizes the whole life of Joseph, “The Lord is with him.”

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Why is the Lord with him? Do you remember last week? The obedient heart and the submissive spirit.

You say well how can I get in on a piece of that action? Have you invited Him along? Are you where He wants you to be today? Do you want His will? Do you want Him to keep company with you wherever you go because your life is an open book before Him?

You see you might be being cut off at the pass simply because there are some well-intentioned disobediences in your life. And you have never really made a decision to ask Him to come along. You have never really made Him top priority in your life and you don't feel fulfilled, you don't feel prospered, you don't feel satisfied.

Old Abraham – it was “Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.” That is the key phrase for the life of Abraham. For Joseph it is the “the Lord went along with him.”

Let me give you two New Testament verses that go with this phrase that maybe makes it come alive.

Hebrews 13:5,6

Let your way of life be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,” so that we confidently say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?”

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Can you really believe that? Can you really say you know I really am content with what I have?

Joseph is thinking, “So what, I’m in Potiphar’s house, so what, I’m a slave, the Lord is with me.” “And he prospered.”

You put God first place in your life and you are obedient to His Word and then you can expect God is going to bless and prosper because He is leading you right into the center of His will.

That is Psalm 1 too.

He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, its leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth, shall prosper.

2 Chron. 16:9 That is a great one to put here.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, that He may strongly support those whose hearts are completely His.

That means He will support you when you make Him first. And His eyes are running to and fro throughout the whole earth to find people who have got a heart like that for Him. And then He is going to reach down and He is going to bless and prosper that individual.

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Now if it is your longing desire today that the Lord is to be the one who is going to be first in your life then invite Him along and tell Him that He is and as you do that you are going to begin to experience what Joseph is talking about.

There are three things that are key to the prosperous life of blessing as far as God is concerned.

- 1. FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD and that is obedience to His Word and submissive to His Spirit. Fellowship with God.**
- 2. A life characterized by FAITHFULNESS. Just like His mercies are new every morning and we say great is His faithfulness, so ours should be that way. We are the same everyday, we are just hanging in there and we keep going.**
- 3. And third, we will be bringing forth FRUIT. John 15:7 “Herein is my Father glorified that you bear much fruit.”**

When we get to the end of life with Joseph, old Jacob is going to say, Joseph you are a fruitful vine climbing over the wall, rich in the fruit that comes from your life.

Jesus said “I am come that you might have life, and you might have it more abundantly.”

And as Joseph is careful to be obedient to Scripture principles, he is prospered by the Word.

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And our text goes on to say, “And he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” Now why is he living in the “house of his Egyptian master?”

Why are you right where you are in your life? Where you are right now if you will honestly face it before the Lord is in a PLACE OF PREPARATION FOR THE PALACE which is ahead of you.

Anything we experience here is a preparation for the mansion He has gone to prepare. Joseph is being prepared now for what is coming down the pipe here in two or three episodes of the study. All of this contributes to that.

So we can say, what I am going through now is temporary. This is part of the PRUNING PROCESS. God is at work in my life in this adversity. And He is working in all of it for good and I am in the place of preparation. What can I do when I am in the place of preparation? Fellowship, faithfulness, and fruit!

There’s a little book called *Ponder This*. Listen to this.

**Has not adversity
been the father
of great things?**

**Throughout history
some of the greatest visions
were born of trial.**

And so who is to say that what you are going through right now is going to give birth to something pretty precious. When a woman has a baby she goes through horrendous pain all to give birth to something pretty precious. And God does the same thing in our lives. And the pain and the hurt, the misunderstanding, the suffering, you are experiencing right now that you cannot share with anybody else is all part of the preparation process for something that God has got in store.

v. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did,

Isn't that great! Your greatest witness is for somebody else to see that hey, you have got it together. And God is just pouring out His blessings on you as He directs and works in your life. And what a demonstration this is and here is this pagan head of the FBI, Secret Service in Egypt, who is impressed, and he sees that the Lord is with Joseph.

Now would you tell me in your wildest dreams how can a pagan official see the Lord in the life of Joseph. Do you want to know how? He could see it by his great attitude in a tough situation. I mean no matter where you drop this guy he is always going to land on his feet.

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Colossians 3:23

And whatsoever you do, do heartily as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Man he rolls up his sleeves and says, “Potiphar give me a job description. And by the way just load me up with all the toughest tasks that you don’t want anybody else to do. And I just want to really serve you in the best way I know how. I want to be a real good employee. A good servant.”

Do you know the Bible mentions more about witnessing as far as your life more than your lip. Some of you have been put on so many guilt trips about the fact that you are not able to verbalize your witness. You know that should never happen in the body of Christ. The concentration should be on what you are so you can learn to say what you need to say. The top priority is what you are.

I am reminded of 1 Peter chapter 3. Here is a woman who is married to a guy who is not a Christian. What does Peter tell her? “With your gentle and quiet spirit win him without a word from the Word and set apart Christ as Lord in your life and be ready always to give an answer to every man to asks you a reason of the hope that is in you.”

What does Jesus say in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. 5:13-16?

You are the salt of the earth. You are a light on a hill. Let man see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Joseph's light is not out because he is in a foreign land and he is working for a foreign official. His light can still shine and Potiphar sees it and sees this man's incredible, unbreakable spirit.

v. 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

Now does that sound familiar? Now when you start to see trends in your life, it is an indication of God's direction. For instance, we saw him last week charged with the responsibility at 17 of his father's ranching operation with Gad and Asher and Dan and Naphtali, his four employees.

Now we see him in the second episode and here he is working for a little time at Potiphar's house and he has the run of the place. He is running the whole show. What is God doing? These little opportunities of leadership are leading to bigger things. You watch that. God never wastes any experiences in your life. And when you get hooked up to His will you begin to relate to things that are happening to you in wisdom. I mean God seems to always drop you into the area of this responsibility. Watch that. That's a sovereign God saying hey I have gifted you this way and your greatest

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contribution to the body of Christ is going to be to be used that way.

Joseph has the ability of administration and he works like crazy and he impresses Potiphar with the fact that the Lord is with him and because He is he turns over everything he owns because he can trust him.

Joseph impressed Potiphar because he was a man who gave himself totally and completely to the task at hand.

v. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all the he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

Now simultaneous with the decision on the part of Potiphar to elevate him to this place in the house God starts pouring out the blessing and Potiphar is saying hey I must be cooperating with the unseen hand here. You know this is great. And all this does is amplify verse 2. “The Lord was with Joseph and He prospered” him.

Now you know what else I think I pick up here? I think Potiphar is a workaholic. I think he is a politician on the rise and I think he just flat does not have any time to stay at the house. He is caught up on an ego trip and the fact that he has got a great responsibility in the administration. And all of his jobs and details in the administration are keeping him away from the house.

And he cannot be troubled with things on the home front and so he turns it over to Joseph.

Potiphar must have traveled a lot too because he does not seem to ever be at home. You know Uriah the Hittite too in the life of David traveled a lot. He was military man first, last, and always. And that set up a very volatile situation that is going to turn out a whole lot different in the one we are getting ready to see.

Verse 6, there are some things that you just cannot turn over to others.

v. 6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

Joseph has it all. He is given the full responsibility.

Now Joseph is this specimen of physical appearance. He has been hard on the job for 8 to 10 years and in between times he has been over at the body shop pumping iron a little bit you know and he is making a good impression. He is handsome and he is well-built and if he were here tonight he would walk in 26 or 27 years of age. He would be able to tell you a whole lot about what it is to put a body together and have it in top shape. Probably watched his diet too.

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v. 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

Now that is coming on fast and furious. But what is her problem? Her problem is one of total neglect. Potiphar is so caught up in his work, he has no time for her. Nowhere in the text do we ever see him at home. He has delegated that responsibility.

Okay, what is her life? Well, the only time he ever uses her is to show her off at social occasions. She must have been real pretty. And so how does she spend her day? Well, she has got her golf buddies and her bridge buddies and she goes to jazzercise and she goes to Junior League and the Garden Club and she keeps herself busy and all she is doing is just spinning her wheels trying to find enough things to do to fill the empty hours of the day. But she has a vacuum at the critical point and that is at her heart.

I believe that is exactly what happened with Bathsheba. Here is a woman who is a military widow because he just stayed away from the house. She was a woman who had just gone through her monthly cycle so knew that she had come without a baby again, another month. And all she wanted was to have a child. And where is her husband? Off fighting the wars for the country. And the king lives next door.

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Mrs. Potiphar notices that Joseph is handsome and well-built after working there for seven or eight years, she is beginning to take notice. So she just puts the direct one on him. Come on in to the bedroom.

Okay, what does that tell us? It tells us that it is always at the times of blessing and not adversity that we face the severest of temptation. You do not catch a person in temptation when his hand is shaky and his cup is empty. Because he is concentrating on the things that he needs to be concentrating. He is climbing the mountain. Getting on the top. Getting where he is way up there and then bam! He is wide-open shot for the evil one. David's life is like the roof of a house. It goes to the pinnacle of 50 years of age and then it just slides downward to his own doom and demise. And here temptation comes at a critical time.

It is tougher to remain victorious than it is to become victorious.

Now you will notice that it has been some time that he has worked there then she notices him and this begins to take place.

Character traits are revealed in a crisis and Joseph is going to shine in all of glory and purity here. It is by means of temptation that we are going to see his innocence transformed into virtue.

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How does temptation hit you? How does it hit me? In James 1:14, 15 you probably got the most graphic illustration of temptation in the Bible. It's an illustration from the realm of fishing. Listen to verses 14 and 15 of James 1.

“Each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin: and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.”

What is the picture? The bait is dropped into the water. Now what is the bait? It has to be something that the fish like.

You put it on the hook and you drop it down. Now the inner desire of the fish is attracted to that bait. Here is a fish just swimming along oblivious and sees the bait and he is minding his own business. Now I don't know what a fish thinks when he sees the bait.

But he looks and the inner desire is there. And so he yields to the desire and he bites the bait and James says sin occurs when we bite the bait. And sin results in tragic consequences.

For the fish he is hooked and fried. For you and me it can lead ultimately to death. The fish is safe, he is casual, he is doing what fish do. But the bait drops, provides him with a decision that he has to make and it looks great and he leaves his hiding place and takes the bait.

v. 8 But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

You see it is an awful lot harder to say “no” after you have once said “yes” or “maybe.” And why is it that the hardest word in the English language is only two letters and we mystify it and yet it is the only secret to overcoming temptation. It is the simple word “no” N-O. He refused. He just said “no, I don’t want that.”

Now let me just point up this. Sometimes under stress you will make the wrong decision. Esau is an illustration of that. He came in hungry and he sold his birthright for a mess of pottage.

Here in this situation, Joseph under stress was very vulnerable. Do you think Joseph had the natural desires of the flesh? Well, he better have because we are going to see him a little bit later as fully capable of reproducing himself. Do you think there was an attractiveness to this situation? Oh come on. This kind of relationship with her could have only ministered to his pride. But he just says “no, I don’t want that. I’m going to answer trust with trust. My master has given me charge of everything in this house.”

v. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

Now right away Joseph says okay there are two rights that are being violated:

1. Number one is the right of the husband for his own wife. So I say, "No."
2. And number two the right that God has in our lives that we should walk openly and purely before Him.

When you recognize temptation and the results of biting it, that it is sin against God and you are not only hurting yourself on the horizontal but you are hurting yourself on the vertical, you are ready for the first time to face the possibility of victory.

Now I do not want to paint this young 27-year-old boy as an unemotional mummy. He is a normal red-blooded young man in his late twenties. He is flattered by the woman's advances. He is acutely aware of his own maleness. He Joseph found himself enticed.

Can you believe it? She wants a little hanky panky!

Joseph said, "I can't do it." When you look at it, he says, "I can't, it is a great wickedness."

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Someone said to love sin and to continue to pursue it is like finding your child dead in the crib with the snake in the corner responsible for the death and turning around and making the snake a pet. To love what drove Jesus Christ to Calvary.

Satan has one thing that he loves to do and that is to minimize sin. He always points you to the pleasure and never the pain. He tries to keep God out of the picture.

Now Joseph is a model here. He says, "I am not going to do it. Forget it. It is a sin against God."

v. 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

Now you see sometimes the evil one just lets it continue. Just keeps on. We can be victorious on the first shot but bam we get it on the second or the third. And here on this situation, Joseph is facing this everyday. This woman does not know what the word "no" means. And so day after day she is putting it on him when he comes into the house. Gives him an open bedroom door. And the poor guy has to face it everyday continuously.

Now just to give you an idea of the power of temptation, Eve faced the power of temptation. She did great on that first shot with the evil one but she bit on the second one you see. Samson did great in the lap of Delilah on the first two shots but he lost it on round three.

You will find when it comes to moral temptation that there is a weakening of the will with emotional involvement. And if you do not run you are going to get emotionally involved and then Katy bar the door. The will starts to weaken with the persistence of the emotional involvement.

Now there is nothing wrong with being tempted. It is when we yield that we have the product of sin and that is what breaks fellowship with our heavenly Father. So you are tempted. So you are normal. So you are red-blooded, American, Christian. If you know and love Jesus Christ you are going to be tempted and you are going to be shot at. It is what you do with it that makes all the difference in the world.

v. 11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.

What is this? Opportunity and isolation. She thinks there is nobody in the house. Joseph is oblivious.

v. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

This is the second time he has lost his coat.

He lost his pretty one last week in chapter 38 and he lost this other one today.

The guy is running through coats but one nice thing he is losing his coat but he is keeping his character, you know it, when you have a choice.

The big problem that Christians have with temptation is that they handle them all wrong. When all else fails, read instructions. You are going to get nailed in three areas:

- 1. The world.**
- 2. The flesh.**
- 3. And the devil.**

The world will always allure you to conform to its priorities and its patterns. What are you supposed to do?

Romans 12:2

Be not conformed to this world.

Say “no.”

What do you do when the evil one comes and hits you? He always hits you in the spiritual. And if you haven't had time yet today to pray for your families and time to be in the Word, he has already got you today. That is all he wants. To keep you out of the Word and keep you from being grateful, and keep you from spending time with the Lord. He nailed you today. He got it. What do you do with him?

You just stand up to him and say, “You are a defeated foe.” And you resist him. James 4. He is like a roaring lion running around seeking whom he may devour but he is a defeated foe. Say, “I am going to get into the Word and in the power of Jesus Christ I have victory over you.” You resist him.

Okay, what do you do about moral temptation? You flee it.

1 Timothy 6:11

But flee from these things you man of God and pursue after righteousness. God in his faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.

Do you know what happens? We have it going wrong. We flee the devil and try to resist moral temptation and both of those you are going to lose. We get a wrong, warped concept and as a result we get defeated.

Joseph wins here. He left his garment so he would not lose his body.

He lost his coat and kept his character.

Fortified by the grace of God, he did not fall. He just says “no” and he left.

v. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had ran out of the house,

v. 14 she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

And you read that word “scream” and you are just saying “uh-huh.” I mean you just know. What does that tell you? That tells you that intense hatred always comes after either a satisfaction of lustful passion or an inability to do it.

In 2 Samuel 13 we have got Amnon and Tamar, brother and sister in love with each other and Amnon after he rapes Tamar has this greater hatred for her than he did original love for her.

And here she is she realizes that he has left his coat and so she screams.

v. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

v. 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.

v. 17 Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.

v. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

v. 19 When his master heard the story his wife told him saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger.

v. 20 Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison,

What?

v. 21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

What do you think Joseph is saying? “Well here I go again. God you sure have a funny way of fulfilling dreams.”

Joseph could have been killed right here. Potiphar could have executed him because if he was in fact guilty of this it could have been death but now here we are.

Here he is, the Lord is with him and he is on the top of the whole thing. He is facing it. How can he do that?

To Joseph you can take the tangled weaves and you can see them all disjointed. You can see him unjustly treated and it would have been easy for him to become bitter and resentful but he is not going to do that. He is going to use this as a time of triumph.

God never promised us rose gardens. But God always promised to go with us through it and He will.

In Joseph, wherever you put him in an afflicted situation, he is going to win the victory.

Verse 22. Look at that.

v. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

Joseph just begins to serve just like he has always done. And a great answer to sorrow is to serve others.

v. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

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What are some of the lessons that we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man. You can have that too by inviting Him along with an obedient heart and submissive spirit.

LESSON #2: The blessing on Potiphar's house was due to the fact that Joseph was working there.

LESSON #3: Recognize in temptation that the sin is against God.

**LESSON #4: Remember God's plan:
Be not conformed to the world,
Resist the devil, and
Flee the lust of the flesh**

LESSON #5: When you are facing unexplainable circumstances, realize that the Lord is going with you through it, and that he has permitted it for your growth and for His glory. He is going with you through it, and it has been permitted for your growth and for His glory. His grace will see you through it. (2 Cor. 12:9).

LESSON #6: God is in control of all of the circumstances and events of our lives. We have got to see that again.

LESSON #7: It is better to lose your coat and keep your character.

LESSON #8: You can give away your virginity only once. And that message needs to be brought across to kids.

LESSON #9: It is never wrong to be tempted.

LESSON #10: Satan will point to the PLEASURE and not the PAIN of sin.

LESSON #11: Satan will minimize sin in your eyes

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER TWO - GENESIS 39:1-23

NOTES

- v. 1** Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.
- v. 2** The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.
- v. 3** When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did,
- v. 4** Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.
- v. 5** From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.
- v. 6** So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,
- v. 7** and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"
- v. 8** But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.
- v. 9** No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"
- v.10** And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.
- v.11** One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.
- v.12** She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.
- v.13** When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,
- v.14** she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.
- v.15** When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."
- v.16** She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.
- v.17** Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.
- v.18** But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."
- v.19** When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.
- v.20** Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison,
- v.21** the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.
- v.22** So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.
- v.23** The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man.

LESSON #2: The blessing on Potiphar's house was due to the fact that Joseph was working there.

LESSON #3: Recognize in temptation that the sin is against God.

LESSON #4: Remember God's plan: Be not conformed to the world, resist the devil, and flee the lusts of the flesh.

LESSON #5: When you are facing unexplainable circumstances, realize that the Lord is going with you through it, and that He has permitted it for our growth and for His glory. He has the grace to see you through (2 Cor. 12:9).

LESSON #6: God is in control of all of the circumstances and events of our lives.

LESSON #7: It is better to lose your coat and keep your character.

LESSON #8: You only give away your virginity once.

LESSON #9: It is never wrong to be tempted.

LESSON #10: Satan will point to the pleasures and not the pain of sin.

LESSON #11: Satan will minimize sin in your eyes.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 39:1-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Where is Joseph, according to verse 1?

3. What does the Lord do for Joseph, according to verses 2 & 3?

4. Describe Joseph's experience in verses 4-6.

5. What temptation does Joseph face in verse 7?

6. How does Joseph respond to the temptation, according to verses 8 & 9?

7. What does she do in response to Joseph's faithfulness?

8. What does the Lord do for Joseph in verses 21-23?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
