

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Thirty Nine

Joseph's Tests

Lesson Verse: Genesis 39:2

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. Joseph is on His Way _____ (39:1)
1. Into a pit (37:22)
 2. Into Slavery (39:1)
 3. Into Trouble with His Boss (39:19)
 4. Into Death Row (39:20)
- B. But through it all, “_____” (39:21)
- C. Everything that the devil throws at a Christian is intended only to do three things:
1. _____ the believer to turn to the Lord for help, and strength, and wisdom
 2. Purge out any “_____” or worldliness that currently is predominate in the life of the believer
 3. Prove _____ a loser, as the Christian goes ahead and obeys the Lord, and follows God’s promises, and trusts Him completely, by faith alone!
- D. Every believer in the Bible faced at least one great test in their life – that is what Hebrews chapter 11 is all about
- E. Even Jesus had to face the tests of the devil – so that both the devil, and all the world would know for sure that Jesus was not just a Man, but God in the flesh (Mt 4)

II. Lesson – Joseph’s Advancement in the Trial

- A. _____ (39:1-7) – How to respond when in Bondage
1. A purchased slave of the Ishmaelites – who then sell him off to Potiphar
 2. Potiphar
 - a. An Egyptian general, right under authority of the Pharaoh himself
 - b. He was in charge of the prisoners of the king
 - c. Was just the right person to be a slave/servant to
 3. Some examples of bondage that people find themselves in:
 - a. Actual slavery
 - b. Financial debt is bondage
 - c. Fear is a bondage
 4. What to do when in bondage as a Christian
 - a. Get the Lord with you (39:2)
 - 1) Invite Him into the situation – He is there anyway (Heb 13:5), but many times we don’t believe it, and make it hard for God to want to do anything for us
 - 2) Make Him Lord (Philp 2)
 - 3) This phrase appears a lot - with Joseph (39:2, 21), as it did with Abraham (21:22; 26:24,28) and Isaac (28:15)
 - b. _____ where you are at – do your very best (39:2,3)
 - 1) Doing your best, allows the Lord to add HIS very best to your best
 - 2) Don’t wait for a better job to come along before you do the best job, and invest all your energies into that task!
 - 3) Make every minute of every day count for the Lord God of your life – otherwise, another god will get all the attention!
 - c. _____ – don’t be the controller, but the servant (39:4)
 - 1) Serve your enemies
 - 2) Serve them as if they were the Lord

- 3) Serve them as if YOU were the Lord – what would HE do if He were in your shoes?
5. Notice what God does when we act as Joseph/Jesus did (39:4-6)
 - a. Joseph, though a foreigner, gradually gained his confidence, and became overseer over all his possessions. He earned his position
 - 1) Christians are meant for trust-worthy positions of leadership – don't downplay your calling
 - b. God extended His blessing not just upon Joseph for his faithfulness, but also extended to Potiphar's house
 - 1) Our relationship, and closeness to God affects the world around us (2Chron 7:14)
 - 2) Abraham's lie about Sarah shut up the wombs of Abimelech's palace (Gen 20:18)

B. _____ Temptation (39:8-13)

1. There always are going to be sexual temptations
2. Many will come from outside forces
3. Potiphar's wife is attracted to a slave – why?
 - a. This slave is young and handsome – Potiphar probably has aged a lot
 - b. This slave is honourable and clean – Potiphar is a political puppet
 - c. This slave is present in the house – Potiphar is away always busy
 - d. This slave offers a challenge – Potiphar probably seems always to be tired, and un-energetic
 - e. All these things her current husband does not seem to offer
4. So, the wife tries to lure young Joseph into a gentle trap
 - a. Attracting him with her eyes – same today
 - b. Offering him an opportunity to lie with her – 99.99999% of all males would never turn down such a chance
5. BUT HE REFUSED – no _____ (39:8-9)!
 - a. Joseph does not just react, but has good reasonable, thoughtful reasons why he CANNOT do such a thing
 - b. He especially brings up God and _____ – even though most people would only think it a sin against the husband (see how David's sin was most of all a sin against God, Ps 51:1-4)
6. Notice that she does not take NO for an answer – it seems to make Joseph more exciting (39:10)
 - a. Presses upon him day after day
 - b. It is one thing to turn down a temptation
 - c. It is another to turn it down day after day
 - d. Joseph carefully made sure that he was not near to her (39:10)
7. So the wife FORCES the act (39:11-12a) – thinks she can MAKE Joseph love her – that is what she wants
 - a. When no one was looking – she had it all planned out
 - b. She grabbed Joseph – very provocatively
 - c. She demanded he lie with her
 - d. She had a good hold on Joseph's clothes
8. But Joseph _____ (39:12b,13) – even naked out of the room – he had lost his coat before – but this time, wilfully!

C. False Accusations (39:14-19)

1. Now the wife is really mad!
 - a. Joseph has humiliated her “love”
 - b. Joseph has spurned her feelings
 - c. And now, Joseph will HAVE to pay for that embarrassment!
2. The wife has a lot of authority – who is going to believe a slave?!
3. She describes her own view of the events to her husband, knowing that it will make him furious, and hopefully will adequately punish Joseph – whom she had so “loved” just a few hours ago!

4. Joseph isn't even allowed to speak – he has no rights!
5. But he does have God!
6. **PRINCIPLE:** Only defend yourself when it will give GOD the glory (Lk 21:12-15)

D. Certain Doom (39:20-23) – 1Pet 2:23

1. Now Joseph is in the hole (2Cor 4:8-11) Big trouble
2. He is on “death row” – he is scheduled to be executed at a time that Pharaoh would be pleased
3. If Joseph had little hope before, he certainly has none now – no defence lawyer, or court case, etc
4. So, what is Joseph to do?
 - a. He does not know what God is going to do
 - b. All he knows is God has promised to be with him, and use him, and God has given him a vision, a dream that his brothers would one day bow before him in honour
 - c. So Joseph does the honourable thing – he works! And he works hard!
 - d. He remains faithful to those around him, and to his faith in God (1Cor 4:2)

III. Applications and Conclusion

- A. Joseph is the great collection of types of Jesus Christ in the entire Bible
- B. Types of Jesus Christ
 1. God's love brought down Jesus to the pit of this world (39:1)
 2. The Lord was with Jesus in everything he did (39:2)
 3. God made everything that Jesus did to prosper (39:3)
 4. Jesus served everybody, but most of all, His Father (39:4)
 5. The Lord blessed the Jews because of Jesus being around (39:5)
 6. Jesus was a goodly person (of good character), and was well favoured by everyone (39:6)
 7. Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are (39:7)
 8. Jesus never sinned (39:8)
 9. Jesus reasoned in relation to God, and the Scriptures concerning every temptation to sin – defeated the devil with TRUTH (39:8-9)
 10. It cost Jesus everything to do right (39:12)
 11. This world is not finished with trying to hurt Jesus (39:13-20)
 12. The casting into prison is in type like going to Paradise – there Jesus preached to the captives (39:20; 1Pet 3:19)
 13. All that were in Paradise were committed to Jesus power and authority (Eph 4:8; Mat 16:18)
- C. With so many examples of what to do, no wonder we Christians have no excuse when we give in to sin!