

Joseph's Finest Hour - Genesis 39:7-21

First Southern Baptist Church - 3-3-21

Introduction:

1. Chapter 39 is strategically placed after the Judah/ Tamar incident
-as immoral as Judah is, Joseph is just as strong
2. Chapters 39-41 are a literary unit
Chapter 39 -Joseph and Potiphar's wife
Chapter 40 -Joseph in the dungeon... Cupbearer and Baker -dreams and interpretations
Chapter 41 - Potiphar's dreams
3. There is a descent and an ascent... and the Lord is involved in the both – principle of resurrection
4. Note there is no hint of bitterness, at the ruthlessness of his brothers
5. "The Lord was with Joseph" - verse 2

I. His Elevation

1. Potiphar noticed that everything he touched was blessed (3)
2. All that he had he put in his hand
-an unsaved man who puts his business in the hands of a trusted believer
3. "Common grace" is the term for the unsaved person being blessed by the presence of a believer - when people reject God, they reject His blessings
4. See the progression:
 - A. God makes him successful (2)
 - B. His master recognizes this (3)
 - C. His master makes him overseer (4)
 - D. The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house (5)
 - E. The master trusts Joseph (6)
5. We are tempted to say that the performance of his duties are what caught the eye of Potiphar... but you can't completely say that, because God "blessed" him and his performance, before it caught Potiphar's eye
6. A power given Joseph - for life within death
7. Potiphar did not concern himself with anything but the food that he ate

II. The Temptation

1. A youth with youthful passions
2. Pleasing appearance
-verse 6
-may well explain why he was put into the house of Potiphar in the first place
-RSV - "handsome and good-looking"
3. In close quarters
-wisely, he set up defensive boundaries - refusing "even to be with her" (11) - avoided being alone with her
-verse 12 says, that on one occasion he was alone... implying that it was rare for them to be together alone
4. "After a while" - took a while for passions to inflame (7)

“Day after day” - 10 (*yom yom*) - every day

5. A temptation to his ego... a slave being intimate with a woman of her social standing
6. She could cause him lots of trouble if he refused
7. He was all alone
8. A wicked wife

III. Victory is Won:

1. In the mind, first
 - Eve sinned by listening to the enemy first
2. By leaving his cloak - decisive, intentional, strong refusal
 - better to lose your garment, than lose your character
3. By having the proper attitude...
4. Run - “flee youthful lusts” - 2 Tim. 2:22
5. Human pride is involved
6. He did not flirt... he just said no - note... he has a power that is not subject to hers
7. His explanation for his refusal:
 - a) abuse of trust
 - a position of “trust”
 - leadership is trust
 - committed all to my hand
 - nothing was held back but you
 - *reminds me of the Garden... nothing was held back but this one tree
 - b) offense against husband
 - loyalty - “my master”
 - c) a sin against God
 - calls it a “great wickedness” - not sin... not a mistake, or a “bad choice”
 - sin is not trifling if it causes men to fall

IV. Joseph is Accused

1. Grabs his cloak
2. Runs
3. A woman scorned - she retaliates
 - tells the servants
 - then tells her husband
 - to save face... to save her own life
4. Accused
 - he said, she said
 - this “Hebrew” - Egyptian anti-Semitism
 - “your slave” indicts him for having put him in the household
5. Joseph’s faith
 - “How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” - verse 9
- !!). 6. WAIT... I thought if you resisted the devil he would flee from you??? - James 4:7

V. Joseph in the Dungeon

1. Potiphar is “enraged” (19) - “furious”
2. She throws the betrayal in his face

3. Why doesn't Joseph get executed?
 - does Potiphar know his wife?
 - does God step in?
 - later in the story of the baker and the cupbearer, the baker **does** get executed for a lesser offense
 - When Joseph was in the cistern, his brothers intervened to allow him to live (Reuben and Judah - chapter 37)
 - Wiersbe - "if the Lord controls us, it makes little difference who commands us"
4. Joseph prospers in the dungeon (20-23)
 - he has no friend
 - the lowest point in his life
 - God initiates the steps for his release
 - in the jail for two years
 - the jailer puts him in charge - nothing was withheld from his hand
 - *Joseph's abilities and work were the same at whatever level God put him
5. God is with him (21,23)... again
 - God is causing him to prosper (23)... again
6. In all this he is being trained to be governor of Egypt
 - we must first govern our own soul