

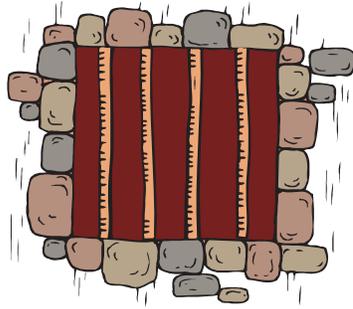


Joseph & Potiphar's Wife

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Genesis 39

Joseph went from being the favorite son to being a slave in just one day. Even though things had gone terribly wrong in Joseph's life, God was with him. Joseph abided in the Lord, and the Lord gave him the grace to stay far from sin.



Day #1: Success

Joseph was taken away from his homeland, the land of Canaan. Canaan was the land of Joseph's father, Jacob, and grandfather, Isaac. It was the land that God had promised to Joseph's great-grandfather, Abraham. Suddenly, Joseph found himself in Egypt, surrounded by strangers who worshipped strange, false gods.

Who is in charge of your country? In Egypt, the King was called Pharaoh. He was a very powerful man. In fact some Egyptians even believed that he was a god! Of course, he was not. He was just a man.

When Joseph was taken to Egypt, he was sold to one of Pharaoh's top officials. He was an Egyptian man named Potiphar.

† *The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. - Genesis 39:2 NLT*

Even though Joseph was taken from his father and everyone that he knew, he was not alone. Who was with him? (The Lord was!) Because God was with Joseph, he thrived in everything he did. Being a slave was not a fancy job. We are not given a list of his chores. What do you think Joseph's chores were?

Joseph was young and strong. He may have started out building things, or he may have shepherded Potiphar's animals. God blessed all of Joseph's work and soon, Potiphar took notice. In time, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything in his huge house. Potiphar trusted Joseph with everything he owned (Genesis 39:4). This would include his home, his chariots, his other slaves, and his money. Everything ran very smoothly with Joseph in charge.

***** Even as a slave, Joseph was successful because God was with him. You do not have to be famous or have a lot of money to be successful. Abide in God, and He will give you the grace to have success in the things you do.

Commit to the Lord everything you do. Then your plans will succeed. - Proverbs 16:3

Day #2: Satan's Lure

Have you ever been fishing? A good fisherman will have a tackle box full of "lures." Lures are fake worms or fake fish that are used as bait to catch a fish. Lures are made of plastic or rubber, and they come in every shape, color, and size. To a hungry fish, a lure looks like a tasty treat, but in reality, it is not a snack at all. Look at the lures shown here. What do you notice about all of them? (They all have hooks!)



Fishing lures are very much like the temptations of Satan. We are used to seeing pictures and movies that show the devil dressed in red and carrying a pitchfork. Satan does not look like this! He disguises himself, and the temptations he offers look way better than they actually are (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). His temptations are never what they seem. You might say that there is always a "hook" hidden within.

Satan had his eye on Joseph. Satan hated Joseph's loving relationship with God. Satan tried to "lure" Joseph into sin to separate him from God.

The Bible says that Joseph was strong and handsome. He was a great leader and did well at everything he tried. Potiphar's wife had been watching Joseph. She liked him in the wrong way, and she said inappropriate things to him. Satan tried to "lure" Joseph into taking the only thing that was forbidden - Potiphar's wife.

But Joseph was filled with God's grace. Joseph resisted the devil's temptation.

***** Did you know that if you say, "No!" to Satan, he will run away from you?

† *So let God work His will in you. Yell a loud no to the Devil and watch him scamper. Say a quiet yes to God and He'll be there in no time. - James 4:7 The Message*

Day #3: Grace to Say No!

Satan loves to tempt people with what God has forbidden (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan is so good at tempting people that one of his names is "the Tempter." (Matthew 4:3) He studies people to learn what will tempt them the most. Perhaps Satan saw that Joseph was lonely and thought he would be tempted to spend time with this woman. But Joseph would not be lured by Satan. When

Day #3 continued:

Potiphar's wife liked Joseph in the wrong way, Joseph refused to spend any time with her.



But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God." - Genesis 39:8-9

Rightly, Joseph knew that being with another man's wife was a sin against God. In the very beginning, God created one wife (Eve) for one man (Adam). God's perfect plan for marriage has always been one man and one woman together for their lifetime (Genesis 2:18-24). God's grace made Joseph *want* to obey God. By His grace, God gave Joseph the *power* to say *NO* to sin (Titus 2:11-12).



Like Joseph, we are surrounded by people who do not follow God. Satan often uses these people to tempt us to sin. But God's grace gives you **power** when Satan tries to tempt you. Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) says:

*So let us come **boldly** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find **grace** to help us when we need it most.*

Even though Satan is tricky and powerful, God is immeasurably more powerful. When you face temptation, abide in God. Boldly ask your heavenly Dad for the grace to say NO to sin.

Day #4: Big Fat Lie

Because Potiphar had important duties under Pharaoh, he may have been away from home often. Mrs. Potiphar would not leave Joseph alone. She spoke to him day after day.

One day, Joseph went to the house to take care of his duties. He didn't realize that Mrs. Potiphar was alone in the house. She tried to grab him, but he managed to get away from her. As he ran out, she held onto his coat.

When Potiphar came home and saw Joseph's coat, Mrs. Potiphar made up a big **lie** about Joseph (John 8:44). She said that Joseph came in to attack her, she screamed, and he ran away. She used his coat to prove that he had been in the house.



When Joseph's master (Potiphar) heard her story, he became very angry. So he put Joseph in prison. It was the place where the king's prisoners were kept. - Genesis 39:19b-20a

This seems so unfair! Deep down, we want things to be fair. We have a longing for justice, because we are

Day #4 continued:

created in the image of a perfectly just God (Deuteronomy 32:4). It is unfair that Joseph did the right thing, yet he was sent to prison! Joseph had lost his master's respect and he was forced to become lower than a slave - he became a PRISONER.

Sometimes justice doesn't happen right away. In the end, justice will take place and God will cause Joseph will be treated as he deserves.



Has anyone ever lied about you? How does it feel to be falsely accused? Those who tell lies about others are following Satan, "the father of lies," rather than following Jesus, "the Truth." (John 8:44, 14:6)

Day #5: With You Always

Joseph was falsely accused and sent to live in the dungeon below Potiphar's house. If you were writing the script of Joseph's life, what would you have happen next? Undoubtedly, we would demand justice. We invent a witness who overheard everything that was said between Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar. We would want Potiphar to find out that it was his wife who betrayed him, not Joseph. We would want Joseph to be set free immediately!

But God's plan was better. God's plan was that Joseph would spend time in prison, but God would be with him.



*But **the Lord was with Joseph in the prison** and showed him His faithful love.* - Genesis 39:21a

It is far better to spend time with the Lord than to have any and every comfort this world has to offer! (Psalm 84:10)

And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. - Genesis 39:21b

God blessed everything that Joseph did, and the man who ran the prison noticed. Soon, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners, and everything that happened there. Just like with Potiphar, the warden didn't worry about a thing when Joseph was in charge. Joseph's amazing story continues next week...



The Lord was with Joseph in his slave quarters and in prison. List the places you go during your regular day. Is God with you in each of these places? Is there any place that God would not go to be with you? Read this Psalm out loud to the Lord:

How can I get away from your Spirit? Where can I go to escape from you? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there. Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east and then cross over to the west where it sinks into the ocean. Your hand would always be there to guide me. Your right hand would still be holding me close. - Psalm 139:7-10