

From Bad To Worse

Genesis 39:1-23

Introduction

I The Beginning of the Good Life

- A. Joseph was **sold** to Potiphar
- B. Joseph was **blessed** by the Lord
 - 1. The Lord was “with” and “**prospered**” Joseph - Isa 41:10
 - 2. Potiphar saw that:
 - a. The Lord was with Joseph - 2 Kings 18:5-7
 - b. The Lord gave Joseph **success** in everything
- C. Joseph found **favor** in Potiphar’s eyes
 - 1. He became Potiphar’s attendant - Prov 22:29
 - 2. He was entrusted with Potiphar’s entire estate - Lk 16:10
- D. Joseph was a source of **blessing** to Potiphar - Gen 12:2
 - 1. His entire estate was blessed by the Lord - 1 Cor 1:31
 - 2. He left Joseph in charge of everything

II The Unraveling Of the Good Life

- A. Joseph was well-built and **handsome** - 1 Sam 16:12
- B. Potiphar’s wife took notice of Joseph:
 - 1. She attempted to **seduce** him - Prov 7:13-20
- C. Joseph refused on two grounds:
 - 1. His fear of displeasing his **earthy** master - Heb 13:4-5
 - 2. His fear of displeasing his **heavenly** Master - Ps 51:4
- D. Potiphar’s wife **persisted** in her seduction
 - 1. She tried to persuade Joseph day after day
 - a. Joseph refused to go to bed with her - 1 Cor 10:13
 - b. Joseph refused to even **be with** her - Prov 5:8-9
 - 2. She laid a trap for Joseph
 - a. She waited for him to be **alone** - Prov 23:27-28
 - b. She caught him by his cloak, but:
 - 1. Joseph left his cloak in her hands
 - 2. Joseph **ran** out of the house - 2 Tim 2:22
 - c. She **lied** to protect herself - 1 Pt 2:19-23

III The End Of the Good Life

- A. When Potiphar heard his wife’s story:
 - 1. He burned with **anger** - Prov 6:32-34

- 2. He put Joseph in the king’s prison - Gen 40:3, 7
- B. But while Joseph was there in prison:
 - 1. The Lord was **with** him - Ps 27:1-3
 - 2. The Lord showed him kindness
 - 3. The Lord granted him **favor** - Prov 16:7
- C. The prison warden:
 - 1. Put Joseph in **charge** of all the prisoners - Prov 27:18
 - 2. Made Joseph responsible for all that was done there
 - 3. Paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care
 - a. Because the Lord was **with** Joseph
 - b. The Lord gave him **success** in whatever he did

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a time in your life when things just seemed to go from bad to worse. What were the circumstances and outcome?
2. Despite life’s injustices, Joseph was a man who “bloomed where he was planted.” Are you facing “injustices” in your life right now? How should you respond?
3. What were Joseph’s prospects for the future in verse 1? In verse 20? What role do you think the promises in Gen 37:5-11 had in providing Joseph with incentive to not give up? What biblical promises give you hope in the midst of life’s setbacks?
4. What tactics does Potiphar’s wife use in her attempt to seduce Joseph (vs. 7, 10, 12)? What motivated Joseph to reject her advances? What actions does he take to counter her advances? What can you learn and apply from Joseph’s example?
5. Who do you think was behind Joseph’s misfortunes? His brothers? Satan? God? How should you respond when life seems to go From Bad To Worse? [Hint: Rom 5:1-5; 1 Pet 1:3-9; 4:12-16; James 1:2-4; 1 Thess 5:16-18] Take a few minutes to pray using these verses to humbly yield your life back to God.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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