

# 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!