

Genesis 39:5-11

- A. *5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.*
- a) From the time—Potiphar made the right decision to make Joseph overseer.
 - b) It is the Lord that blessed Potiphar's house for the sake of Joseph. This blessing of Potiphar's house was more beneficial to Joseph than anyone else. It was for Joseph's sake.
 - c) The reason for Potiphar's prosperity was **the God of Joseph**. Had it not been because of Joseph, it would have been another story
 - d) We can be blessed working for others but also others can be blessed by because we work for them. Every blessing in our lives doesn't come because of us. **We can be blessed through partnership.** Egyptian—Unbeliever. God can bless your unbelieving boss because of you.
- B. *6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.*
- a) Favor brings trust. Potiphar had complete trust in Joseph or else, he would not have done this.
 - b) When you trust, you do not Micromanage. Micro-management is a sign of lack of trust and insecurity.
 - c) Goodly- Handsome. NIV says he was "well- built and handsome" AND well favored—talking about looks or appearance.

C. ⁷And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

- a) Anointing attracts. It attracts the good and the ugly. Joseph was handsome and anointed. Talking about trouble, this was trouble for Joseph.
- b) Master's wife—she was married. Joseph had no business with her.
- c) **"Cast her eyes" This is talking about lust.** This was no love but lust. Notice that **lust started with eyes**. You can't lust after what you do not see. Psalm 101:3 "I will set no wicked things before my eyes....."

It is not only men than lust. Women can lust too and it can be obsessive.

Illustration: Story about a lady that came up to me at the store.

- d) Success was on Joseph's side at this point then temptation came. Temptation did not come until Joseph got to this place of Overseer. **This was designed of the devil to destroy him.** We should be a lot more careful at times of success than failure. That is when we are most susceptible to attacks of the enemy.

D. ⁸But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

- a) Joseph refused. Question? How many of us would refuse in a perfectly constructed environment with literally no consequences?
- b) Where were the servants that worked in the house that day? This woman could have carefully sent them away from the house to make the environment suitable.

E. ⁹There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

- a) Joseph was a man of integrity and was a man who had a relationship with the Lord.
- b) Two reasons Joseph gave not to sleep with this woman;

We need reasons greater than any other reason, motivation (Drive). We need something bigger than ourselves. We need a **greater and bigger cause**.

- i) She was Potiphar's wife, not Joseph's wife.
- ii) Great wickedness and sin against God (**Gen 39:9-10 – Sin against the Lord**. Not sin against man or Potiphar but against God (2Sam 12:13, Psalm 51:4; Luke

15:18). One of the main reasons and the greatest reason and motivation why we don't want to sin.

- Despises the Lord and His word.

F. ¹⁰ And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

- i) Just because you won yesterday, it doesn't mean that the enemy will back off. Keep your guard up. The enemy might keep pressing just to see **how long you can resist**. Many people can resist for a moment but not for long enough.
Example of a guy pursuing a woman.

G. Genesis 39:11 *And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.*

- i) Was this a holiday? Why was there no men in the house, but a woman that was constantly asking Joseph to lie with her? How did Joseph miss seeing this? Something wrong with this picture. I would not be in a house alone with a woman that I know is after me.
 - o Genesis 39:11 Joseph was in the house to do his business, but there was "*none of the men of the house there within.*" This was a set up. Don't be with a female alone in the house.
- ii) It's tempting and it's an opportunity for error and slander. This was either a lack of sensitivity or naivety on Joseph's part. This was dangerous.
- iii) Joseph did not sleep nor be with her.
- iv) We need to be careful not just to lie with her or him, but also the appearance of being with her. It is tempting to be with her. He also did not hearken to her.

We have to get to a place where we treat sin as it is—a transgression and sin against the Lord.

The two main reasons and the greatest reasons and motivations why we don't want to sin or yield to temptation.

We need reasons greater than any other reason, motivation (Drive). We need something bigger than ourselves.

i) **Gen 39:9-10 – Sin against the Lord.** Not sin against man or Potiphar but God (2Sam 12:13, Psalm 51:4; Luke 15:18).

ii) **2 Sam 12:9-10– Despises the Lord and His word.**

a) **Genesis 39:9** There *is* none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou *art* his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

i) **A reason greater than ourselves**

- There is no greater reason and motivation, to avoid sin than not to sin against God. We need a reason and cause greater than ourselves not to sin. That greater cause can only be that when we sin, we are sinning against God. Anything less than that will not keep us from sinning committing or wickedness.

ii) **Wrong reasons**

- Reasons like; I will hurt people, I will be caught, I will lose my job, I will get divorced, I will catch STD's and so forth will not forever keep you from compromise and staying away from sin. These are all temporal measures. These reasons are like a Band-Aid on a wound. It does not heal the wound but only covers it.

iii) **How to Evaluate sin**

- Most people evaluate sin based on what damage and harm it will do to others or themselves, but the **main basis should be that it is sin and great wickedness against the Lord God.**

iv) **Sin damage, valid but not Main.**

- Although the damage of sin is a valid cause not to sin, it should not be the MAIN reason not to sin. If there were no consequences, most people will go all into sin. We will reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8), and Jeremiah 2:19.

v) **Doing the right thing**

- We should do the right thing whether we are caught or not. Whether we reap or not, whether it hurts others and ourselves or not.

vi) **What motivation?**

- We should be driven or motivated by fear, love, honor, and respect for God. That's the proper attitude that we should have.

vii) **Wrong in God's eyes**

- If something is wrong in God's eyes, it doesn't matter if other people feel it's okay, it is still wrong. God's opinion is higher and better than any man's.

viii) Those who **esteem the word**, thoughts, and opinion of God more than the opinion of anyone else have a moral code that is established and grounded and will hold like an anchor, regardless of the pressures that come against them. Joseph valued God's opinion over anything else that's why he responded the way he did and refused to give in to the ungodly pressures of this woman. Joseph was the very definition of a man of character. We should develop our relationship with the Lord that we will not compromise for anything.

ix) **Why Joseph refused to sleep with her**

- The heart of the issue for Joseph not to sleep with Potíphar's wife was that it was a **sin against God**.
- Yes, it was also sin against Potíphar, but Joseph had a **greater and bigger cause** than just his boss.

- He had an acute moral compass that he was willing to do what is right regardless if someone is seeing or not. His lifestyle was unto the Lord not unto men.
- x) Colossians 3:22-24 says Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ.” That’s the proper attitude that we should have. Joseph kept this verse well.
- b) 2 Samuel 12:9-10 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.
- i) The word “despise” means to “Devalue or disesteem.”
 - ii) **Sin is despising the Lord and His Word.**
 - All sin is nothing but despising the Lord and His word. When David committed sin by taking his neighbor’s wife and slaughtering her husband, and the Lord came to rebuke him through Prophet Nathan, He said that David had despised the Lord and His commandment.
 - iii) **David’s key problem.**
 - David’s key problem was despising the Lord not necessarily committing adultery and murder. If David had not despised the Lord, he would not have done such wickedness. Later in *verse 13*, he says that *“And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD.”* Again, just like Joseph showed earlier, sin is a sin against that Lord.
 - iv) **Despising the Lord precedes every sin.**

- He said He had sinned against the Lord which is the very same thing that Joseph said earlier that he could not do (Genesis 39:9). David later in *Psalms 51:5* *"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:* David knew well and recognized that had sinned against the Lord. I strongly believe that if this was the forethought of David as was with Joseph, he would not have committed adultery and murder.

v) **Prodigal son**

- Lastly, the prodigal son said in *Luke 15:18* *"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,"*

We need to start treating sin as despising the Lord and/or sin against the Lord—not just people only. When we despise the Word of God, we end up sinning against Him. Those who despise the word of God will always sin against the Lord.

How can we then stop this despising of the Lord and avoid sinning against the Lord?

- a) Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- b) Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- c) Psalm 1:1-3 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.