

A Study of the life of Joseph (2)
Winning over the persistent temptations of Satan
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: We must never grow confident that we have overcome sin.

- A. We face a persistent adversary in Satan. **(1 Pt 5:8-11)**
 - 1. God knows and will take care of you if you will let Him.
 - 2. Still notice that you will suffer “for a while.”
 - 3. If you do not have a distinctive faith then Satan may leave you alone. Would that be good? **(Lk 6:26)**
- B. Our life is a test before God.
 - 1. We need to know that God will allow bad things to enter our lives so that He can mold us and best use us. **(Psa 7:9-10)**
 - 2. How you are building this very day prepares you for the time of hurt and struggle. **(Rom 5:3-4)**
 - 3. Most people fall because they cannot emotionally handle the disappointments of life! **(Mt 24:10-12)**

I. Overcoming the temptation of bitter people

- A. Joseph had done nothing to deserve this treatment.
 - 1. Why were they angry with him? **(Gen 37:3-4, 10-11)**
 - 2. If you succeed you will certainly find envious people to mindlessly oppose you!
 - 3. The people who will hurt you the most will be your brethren and even your own family. **(Mt 10:21-23; 34-39)**
- B. There is no hurt like being stabbed in the back by one's own family. **(Psa 41:7-10)**
 - 1. It is true that the ones we are closest to can hurt us the most.
 - 2. There are many people who blame God when this happens.
 - 3. Remember that Jesus knew the pain of this kind of betrayal. **(Lk 22:47-48)**
 - 4. The greatest hurts for a Christian will come from other Christians, the family of God. Should you work to destroy them? Is there an alternative?
- C. Bitterness and envy makes people act cruelly and without reason.
 - 1. “Envy is that uncomfortable feeling that one experiences over the advances or good fortunes of another. An envious person feels that any honor for another is a galling dishonor for himself.”
 - 2. Pride cannot give honor when due. **(1 Cor 12:26)**
 - 3. Pride will cause some to use the charge of pride to destroy and minimize the influence of their “competitor”. (Ex. Korah charged Moses with pride) **(Num 16:3)**
 - a. What is sad is that there is nothing you can do to change this one.
 - b. Here is where you show your faith in God. **(Psa 7:1-2; Rom 12:17-21)**
 - 4. This is why the leaders murdered Jesus. **(Mark 15:10)**
- D. Because of the unfair actions of his brethren, Joseph had to live a drastically different lifestyle.
 - 1. It is hard to deal with sudden changes in life. (Ex. Living at the Hospital)

2. When we have a living faith, our God will help us to adjust and prosper wherever we find ourselves. **(Mt 28:19-20)**
 3. How many amongst us have experienced this very thing? Consider the life changing events such as: the death of a mate or family member; divorce; the sudden loss of a job; the split of a church.
 4. Rather than moaning and withdrawing use your faith to see the opportunities God has for you! Paul did this and bore much fruit even while falsely imprisoned. **(Phil 1:12-14)**
- E. Probably the greatest temptation was in the memories of this event.
1. Joseph was sold into slavery and likely thought he would see his family no more.
 2. If we do not know God and are not willing to let Him have the vengeance then we will become bitter and consumed like the ones who hurt us!
 3. When we learn to let go of these things God can bless us and allow us to move forward. **(Phil 3:13-14)**

Discussion: How to handle unfair people

1. What should you do when you are accused falsely?
2. How you should you respond to an angry and unreasonable person?
3. What must you not do when falsely accused?
4. What are some situations you may face as a Christian in this area?

II. Overcoming the temptations of youth.

- A. Satan does not give up on Joseph even though he has endured a terrible injustice.
1. This is why we must always stay within the care and protection of a living God.
 2. What would be an effective way to destroy a young person? **(1 Cor 6:18-19)**
 3. Egypt like our culture had little concern for morals! How could Joseph stand in this temptation? **(Psa 119:11; 1 Cor 10:12-13)**
- B. Joseph walked by faith even as a slave and was blessed. **(Gen 39:1-6)**
1. God blessed Joseph and he knew it!
 2. Those who are thankful will see many things that will help them in later trials. **(Col 3:15)**
 3. David knew God had been with him in the past and because of this he had confidence to face the future. **(1 Sam 17:34-37)**
 4. On the other hand the bitter cynic will discourage others as well as themselves.
- C. God blessed Joseph by providing an escape from temptation towards immorality!
1. When one has power over you it becomes especially difficult to say no. Some give in because of fear. **(Gen 39:7-9)**
 - a. How many are afraid to lose someone who “loves” them.
 - b. Rather than fear be willing to turn away from Satan’s “deliverance.” **(Heb 11:35-36)**

Hebrews 11:35 through Hebrews 11:36 (NKJV) ³⁵Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

2. Joseph had to deal with persistent temptation! (**Gen 39:10**)
3. Joseph was humble and thankful for the good that others had done to him.
 - a. What an honor Potiphar had bestowed upon him.
 - b. He also know how God had been good to him!
 - c. Thankfulness is key to keeping a pure heart! (**Col 3:15**)
4. Joseph again did God's will and escaped temptation. (**Gen 39:11-13**)
 - a. It is good to be prepared and have a plan.
 - b. "Flee" is a word often used regarding temptation! (**1 Tim 6:10-11**)
5. There is a great strength in a clear conscience. Men may not know the truth, but God will! (**Acts 24:15-16**)

Discussion: How does the temptation of sexual immorality affect us?

1. What messages do we see on TV and the media about this subject?
2. How does peer pressure affect us?
3. How does others clothing affect us?
4. What is the key to standing when other will not? (**Ecc 11:9-10**)

III. Overcoming the temptation of doing right but being charged falsely

- A. Joseph did right and was falsely accused. (**Gen 39:14-20**)
 1. If Satan does not win in one way he will try another! (**1 Pt 4:4**)
 2. Satan will at first promise pleasure, "freedom" and "wisdom." If you say no he will use those same "nice" people to viciously attack you.
 3. Satan's world is a "dog eat dog" world with throwaway people.
- B. This wicked woman carefully plotted and manipulated the situation to have Joseph imprisoned. (**Gen 39:19-20**)
 1. There are times it appears that the wicked get away with their lies.
 2. Always remember the long view. (**Psa 73:12-17**)
 3. Still this wicked woman prevailed upon her husband.
 4. God will allow unfair things to happen to us! Will we walk by faith?
- C. Joseph now faced grueling conditions over a long period of time.
 1. There was oppressive heat and humidity.
 2. There was the loss of freedom.
 3. Joseph was likely in prison for 8-10 years. Can you imagine that?

IV. Overcoming the temptation of the neglect and oversight of others

- A. Even under difficult times, Joseph knew that God was with him. (**Gen 39:21-23**)
 1. If he was ever of a mind to look back he would have been discouraged.
 2. He continued to do good and find the blessings of God. Still freedom must have been a precious thought.
- B. Joseph did good to the butler through the help of God. (**Gen 40:12-15**)
 1. Imagine the excitement and anticipation of finally being free.

2. In return the butler forgot him. (**Gen 40:23; 41:1**)
3. Here is where many may have quit. Being so close but in fact he was forgotten for two more years! By now much of his life has been spent in difficult conditions. (**Psa 105:17-19**)
 - a. God was still testing Joseph!
4. We need to have realistic expectations about people. Jesus knew this well. (**Jn 2:23-25**)
 - a. Jesus prepared his disciples to face this as well. (**Jn 16:1-3**)
 - b. It is the end of the world when someone lets us down! Our faith is in a God who will never let us down. (**Psa 30:5**)

Discussion:

1. What should you do when you think “no one cares about me?”
2. How can you better see God when people let you down?
3. Is it easy to wait when you are waiting for justice?
4. Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

Conclusion: Are you ready to face God’s test?