

## Genesis 39:1-23

39 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.

2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

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 Egyptians house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

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 favored.

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

8 But 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;

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?

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.

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.

12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.

13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

### **Joseph is put into prison**

So far only evil seems to have come to Joseph. We must wait to see how God turns it for good. God's promises are always perfectly fulfilled. Joseph's life was a type of the life of Christ. Joseph was hated by his brothers for telling of their sins; Jesus was hated for telling people of their sins (Luke 20:19). Joseph's brothers planned to kill him; Jesus' own people planned and did kill Him (Matthew 27:1-35). Joseph's coat was taken from him; Jesus' coat was taken from Him (John 19:23-24). Joseph was sold by his brothers for twenty pieces of silver; Jesus was sold by one of His disciples for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-15).

**Genesis 39:1-6** And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the

Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 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 Egyptians house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 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 favored.

Joseph was now in Egypt, a slave of Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the guard, but the Lord was with Joseph. Joseph was blessed by the Lord—God gave success in all he did. Potiphar recognized this and trusted him with all of his business. Joseph's prosperity extended to Potiphar. The Lord blessed the Egyptians' house for Joseph's sake. Joseph was good-looking and intelligent.

Despite the adversity he faced, Joseph's faith never wavered. His unwavering trust in God's plan, even in the midst of hardship, was a testament to his strong character. His resilience and integrity were evident in his actions, earning him the respect and trust of those around him. This story serves as a powerful reminder that God's blessings can manifest in unexpected ways, and that faith and perseverance can lead to success and prosperity, even in the most challenging circumstances. Joseph's journey from being a slave to becoming a trusted servant in Potiphar's household is a testament to the transformative power of faith and God's providence.

Genesis 39:7-10 <sup>7</sup> And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. <sup>8</sup> But 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; <sup>9</sup> 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? <sup>10</sup> 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.

Joseph's pleasing qualities drew the notice of Potiphar's wife. She, not being a good person, enticed him to sin with her. But he refused. For two reasons, such an act was detestable to him.

- (1) It would be a betrayal of his master's trust.
- (2) It would be a sin against God.

We live in an evil world. The powers of darkness surround us and are constantly striving to pull us down into doubt, discouragement, and backsliding. This lesson about Joseph should encourage us. Everything was dark around him. All seemed to be going wrong. Apparently, no question entered Joseph's mind about how he should answer the temptation that came to him. He was decided, and no persuasion could change his stand. No price was too great for him to pay to remain on the side of the right. Property, comfort, reputation, position—all could go—he still would obey God. Joseph's unwavering commitment to righteousness in the face of temptation is a testament to his strong moral character and deep faith. His story serves as a powerful reminder that, even when confronted with the most challenging circumstances, we too can choose to uphold our principles and remain faithful to our beliefs. It

is not the absence of temptation, but our response to it, that defines our character. Like Joseph, we must be prepared to sacrifice worldly comforts and stand firm in our convictions, trusting that our obedience to God will ultimately lead to our deliverance and reward. This is the enduring lesson of Joseph's life – a lesson of courage, integrity, and unwavering faith in the face of adversity.

**Genesis 39:11-16** <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. <sup>13</sup> And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, <sup>14</sup> That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. <sup>16</sup> And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

The devil is persistent. This woman was not easily turned from her evil desires. One day, finding Joseph alone, she caught him by his garment and repeated her sinful urging. Quickly, Joseph slipped out of his coat and fled, and got him out. In frustration, the wicked woman turned to revenge. She called others and gave a false account, accusing Joseph of the crime of which she was guilty. As proof, she showed the garment she held and claimed Joseph left it when startled by her cry for help.

This narrative underscores the profound truth that temptation often comes from unexpected quarters, and it is relentless. Joseph's story is a testament to his unwavering faith and integrity. Despite

the woman's persistent advances, he chose to uphold his moral principles, even when it meant leaving behind something as personal as his garment. His actions serve as a powerful reminder that sometimes, the path of righteousness requires us to make difficult and immediate decisions. The false accusations that followed were a bitter consequence of his virtuous choice, yet they set the stage for God's plan to unfold in Joseph's life. His story encourages us to remain steadfast in our faith, even when faced with adversity.

**Genesis 39:17-20** <sup>17</sup> And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: <sup>18</sup> And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. <sup>19</sup> And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. <sup>20</sup> And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.

Potiphar came home and his wife reported this news to him. His trusted servant was untrue, and the proof before his eyes was the abandoned garment! A little truth mixed into a lie makes it more deadly. Potiphar's wrath was kindled, and he put Joseph into the prison.

In the midst of this turmoil, Joseph found himself unjustly accused and harshly punished. Yet, even in the cold confines of the prison, his integrity remained unshaken. He was a victim of deceit, but he refused to let this define him. Instead, he held onto his faith, trusting that truth would eventually prevail. This incident, while seemingly a setback, was just another step in God's greater plan for



Joseph. His journey was far from over. His faith and resilience would soon turn his trials into triumph.

**Genesis 39:21-23** <sup>21</sup> But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. <sup>22</sup> And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. <sup>23</sup> The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Things seemed to be going from bad to worse for Joseph. He was sold from his home, taken to Egypt, became a slave, and then a prisoner, but through it all, Joseph held steady. He was determined not to sin whatever happened. He kept his trust in God. Decisions like Joseph's are seldom made at the sudden moment of crisis. We cannot think deep and straight then. The decision must be made before. Only the manner of following it can be chosen at the time of temptation. Outward circumstances looked bad. Inside, where it mattered most, all was well with Joseph, for the LORD was with Joseph.

Joseph's story is a testament to the power of faith and resilience. Even in the face of adversity, he remained steadfast in his devotion to God and his moral principles. His life serves as a reminder that our inner strength and faith can guide us through the darkest of times. Joseph's unwavering trust in God was not a spur-of-the-moment decision, but a deep-seated conviction nurtured over time. It is this inner fortitude, this unshakeable faith, that truly defines us, not our external circumstances. For even in the bleakest of situations, Joseph found hope and strength because



he knew that God was with him. His story encourages us to cultivate such faith and resilience in our own lives.

How can we make the right decision, or choose the right side, when so many differing voices advise us? Joseph looked heavenward. He did not consider changing times, the customs of society, what was expedient, or what would put him in the right with his owner. All he considered was what was right in God's sight.

When we determine to choose right, shun sin, and look for the right way, the Bible and the Holy Spirit will lead us there. People, young and old, who wish to avoid falling into sin, should take a lesson from Joseph. He not only refused to commit the sin the woman suggested, he also refused to be with her.

If you do not want to steal, lie, tell filthy stories, commit fornication, drink, or use drugs, then you must not spend time with the people who do. If you do not wish to read ungodly literature, keep it out of your house. Companions who must be "kept in line" are not fit companions. Spend time with good people, talk of good things, and surround yourself with influences that lead toward God and right. Philippians 4:8-9 says **“8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”**

Pursue holy living and flee from all suggestions of evil. 1

Thessalonians 5:22 says **“22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.”** Keep away from any place that may tempt you to do evil.

The question is often asked, "What is the use of doing right when it brings no worldly advantages?" Doing right put Joseph in prison, but it also gave him a clear conscience, the smile of God, and the confidence of the prison keeper. These priceless possessions were immediate. To come later were more blessings that would have been lost had Joseph yielded to sin. Joseph kept his trust in God, and the LORD was with Joseph. The blessings came later, but victory was won during those dark hours. During those long dark hours that grew into years, Joseph formed a strong sense of values.

Joseph's story is a testament to the power of faith and the importance of maintaining a strong moral compass, even in the face of adversity. It reminds us that the path of righteousness may not always be the easiest or the most rewarding in the short term, but it is the one that leads to true fulfillment and peace in the long run.

Joseph's unwavering commitment to his principles, despite the challenges he faced, serves as a beacon of hope for all of us. It teaches us that when we stay true to our values and keep our faith in God, we can overcome any obstacle and achieve our true potential. This is the essence of living a life of purpose and meaning. So, let us strive to emulate Joseph's example in our own lives, making decisions that align with our values and beliefs, and trusting in God's plan for us. Remember, the rewards of righteousness may not always be immediate, but they are everlasting.

**Closing**

Genesis 39:1-23 is a powerful chapter in the Bible that tells the story of Joseph's time in Potiphar's house and his subsequent imprisonment. Despite being sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph remains steadfast in his faith and integrity.

In Potiphar's house, Joseph rises to a position of responsibility due to his hard work and God's favor. However, he faces a significant test when Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of misconduct. Despite his innocence, Joseph is thrown into prison.

Yet, even in prison, Joseph's character shines through. He continues to trust in God and is eventually placed in charge of all the other prisoners. Throughout this chapter, we see that God is with Joseph in every situation, blessing him and causing everything he does to prosper.

This chapter serves as a reminder that God's presence and favor are not dependent on our circumstances. Even in the face of injustice and hardship, we can remain faithful and experience God's blessing. It encourages us to maintain our integrity, trust in God's plan, and believe that He is always with us, working for our good.

In conclusion, Genesis 39:1-23 is a testament to Joseph's unwavering faith and God's unchanging favor, reminding us that God is always present, even in our most challenging times.

Just a thought—One thing you can give and still keep is your word.