

**Date:** March 1, 2026

**Title:** Resist Temptation

**Passage:** Genesis 39

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Summary:

- I. God's presence with His children (v.1-5)
- II. Joseph working unto God (v.6)
- III. The Temptation to Commit Adultery (vv. 6b-12)
  - A. The timing of the temptation
  - B. The enticement of temptation.
  - C. The entitlement of temptation.
  - D. The disguise of temptation.
  - E. The persistence of temptation.
  - F. The cost of temptation.

Key Truths:

- God's presence did not remove hardship from Joseph's life, but it sustained him in it.
- Christians should have a high value of work. Christians should aim for excellence in whatever is done. Why? For the glory of God.
- Temptation rarely attacks our strengths. It aims at our desires.
- The way to withstand temptation is to memorize God's Word. See Jesus' example; He used good Scripture with good theology.
- Reject the modern way of trivializing sin. Temptations thrive on euphemisms. Clarity strengthens resistance.
- Before you sin, preach the consequences to your own soul.
- Be diligent in taking measures to avoid temptations that challenge you.
- Temptation only works because it offers what our heart already desires. But we need more than strategies. WE NEED TRANSFORMED DESIRES.

Application:

The way to resist temptation:

1. Settle your convictions before the battle comes.
2. Call sin what it is.
3. Remember the cost - to others and to God.
4. Take practical steps to limit exposure.
5. Ask God to change what you love most.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

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## Introduction

### "Wreckers"

- refers to historic coastal, often illegal, activities where crews lured ships with lanterns onto rocks to salvage their contents

### Connection:

- Temptation is like a false light that appears safe but will actually wreck your life.

### 1 Peter 5:8

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

### John 10:10a

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

### **Passage:**

### Genesis 39

## EXPOSITION

### Context of Passage

Sermon series on Genesis 37-50

- Passage is a focus on the descendants of Jacob (especially Joseph and Judah)
  - See God's sovereign plan of shaping the character of these men.

## I. GOD'S PRESENCE WITH HIS CHILDREN (v. 1-5)

### Genesis 39:1-5

***Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. The LORD was with Joseph...saw that the LORD was with him...***

- 5 times the idea of "The Lord was with Joseph"
  - God had not totally forgot about Joseph.
- In trial with difficult circumstances:
  - Do we see this as part of God's plan?, or

- Do we sulk and look down and simply wait for Jesus to return?
- Key Point: God's presence did not remove hardship from Joseph's life, but it sustained him in it.

## II. JOSEPH WORKING UNTO GOD. (v.4-6a)

### Genesis 39:4-6a

***So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.***

- Over time, Joseph clearly worked hard in Potiphar's house such that Potiphar "saw that the LORD was with him."
- Joseph was in Potiphar's house for about 11 years.
- Despite the prolonged circumstances, Joseph worked hard and God blessed him.

Application:

- Christians should have a high value of work.
- Christians should aim for excellence in whatever is done.
- Why? For the glory of God.

### Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

- The passion is not for the results but for God.
- We may not hit the best results but God will honor it.
  - God always sees you. He is omnipresent and omniscient. He knows your effort.

### Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

## III. The Temptation to Commit Adultery (v. 6b-12)

### A. The timing of the temptation (v.7)

#### Genesis 39:6-7

***So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and***

**appearance. And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."**

- Joseph was promoted to be in charge of Potiphar's household.
  - Then it was time that temptation arose.
- beware when you have achieved a great victory or great project and feel good.
  - Be on guard.

### **B. The enticement of temptation.**

**Genesis 39:11-12**

***But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.***

- Temptation rarely attacks our strengths. It aims at our desires.
- Satan is very aware and sees your weaknesses. A very focused temptation will be presented.

1 John 2:16

For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

### **C. The entitlement of temptation.**

Potiphar's wife's pleas were likely focused on Joseph's pride.

- "You deserve the best."
- Pointing to a sense of entitlement that the success of the household was on Joseph's abilities.
- Temptation of entitlement
  - "You deserve something you don't have"
    - You feel you're not paid what you're worth.
    - You feel you're not respected for what you ought to receive.
    - You feel you're entitled to some measure of pleasure after working so hard and feel entitled.
- What to do? Remind yourself of the Gospel.
  - What do you deserve? Nothing but death.
  - You are not entitled to anything. Anything above death is God's mercy.

### **D. The disguise of temptation.**

**Genesis 39:7**

***And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."***

- The world "sanitizes" sin. Changes the wording and description to diminish the seriousness of the sin.
  - Instead of "pride", it is described as "confidence."
  - Instead of "rebellious against authority," it is one being "authentic".
- What to do? See sin for what it is: disobedience against God that always comes with a cost.

### **E. The persistence of temptation.**

#### **Genesis 39:10**

***And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.***

- "day after day"
- Satan comes after Christians persistently.
- Resulting temptation: because you struggle with something everyday or often, then this is just the way you are.
  - Place one's identity with ones temptations and struggle
    - Not one's identity in Christ.
- What to do? Reject the lie.
  - Base your identity on Christ.

### **F. The Cost of Temptation.**

- In the moment of temptation, you don't realize the cost of it.
  - Falsely think you can cover it up or no one will know.
- What to do? Remember the true cost of sin. Focus on the long-term gain of resisting temptations.
- Temptation always costs more than it promises.
  - Promises freedom but really produces bondage.
  - Promises secrecy but really produces separation.
- If you protect yourself, you will gain more long-term.

Resist the

#### **APPLICATION**

#### **The way to resist temptation**

#### **1. Settle your convictions before the battle comes.**

Psalm 119:11

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

- The way to withstand temptation is to memorize God's Word.
- Look to the example of Jesus in the great temptations in the desert.
  - Every time Jesus was tempted, He responded with focused Scripture. (Even though Satan used Scripture to tempt Jesus)

- Jesus used good Scripture with good theology.
- Likewise, memorize Scripture that addresses certain areas of weaknesses.

## **2. Call sin what it is.**

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

- Reject the modern way of trivializing sin.
  - Temptations thrive on euphemisms.
- Clarity strengthens resistance.

## **3. Remember the cost - to others and to God.**

- Before you sin, preach the consequences to your own soul.

## **4. Take practical steps to limit exposure.**

- "Kill sin or sin will kill you."
- Be diligent in taking measures to avoid temptations that challenge you.

## **5. Ask God to change what you love most.**

- Temptation only works because it offers what our heart already desires. But we need more than strategies. WE NEED TRANSFORMED DESIRES.
- Pray for re-directed desires in your heart.

Look to Jesus:

- Jesus resisted temptation for our integrity.
- Jesus provides us the new identity and a new relationship.
- Jesus will empower you through any situation.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to

sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.