

Glorify God by Resisting Temptation

11/6/2016

Gen 39:11-23

11 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, 12 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. 13 And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, 14 she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. 15 And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." 16 Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, 17 and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. 18 But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." 19 As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. 23 The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

The main point of this is not about fleeing from sexual temptation but rather the Lord's sovereignty/providence & blessings even in difficult/unjust circumstances. *Symmetry slide*

- Interpret your circumstances by God's love, not God's love by your circumstances.

He was providentially sent to Potiphar's house to prepare to administrate all of Egypt. *39:1-6a*

- He learned the Egyptian language, culture/customs, and political interworking's.

Potiphar's wife lusted after Joseph; she constantly tried to seduce him, he refused, so she framed him for rape. He lost all his power & was imprisoned. *39:17-21*

- The milder punishment suggests that Potiphar did not believe his wife: he knew her character.

We expect Joseph's faithfulness to be rewarded with deliverance, but he comes out of the frying pan and into the fire.

- Dad's favorite > hated bro > slave > head servant > accused felon > imprisoned.
- He had no control over his own destiny, all he could do is be faithful & trust Lord.

But prison was exactly where he needed to be to fulfill God's plan. *39:21-4:4*

- In answer to Joseph's prayers: God protects him from this woman & continues to build his character
 - The Lord frequently answers our prayers differently than we expect.
- Place for Lord's divine appointment that led to Joseph's position of power.
- Like Jesus: Joseph was falsely accused, suffered as a result of faithfulness, his Father exalts Him

Regularly preach the Lord's sovereignty so that today: you can glorify God by resisting temptation.

- We are all tempted, even (especially) if you are doing God's will.
 - Mrs. Potiphar is a mouse-click away; channel change; or a person at work.
- It is not a sin to be tempted. Jesus was tempted. It's a sin to yield to temptation.
- God will not allow temptation beyond your ability. Rom. 6:18, 1 Cor. 10:13

Take steps to glorify God by resisting temptation: start with a Biblical view of sin.

- Don't rationalize/excuse or call evil/sin "good". Is 5:20
 - adultery is now called an "affair"—it may seem like a mysterious, exciting relationship, and you may think if there is no sex involved it is not a sin. Not true!

Count the cost: Gal. 6:7, Pr. 6:27, 39:7-9, Ps 51:4

- Learn to maximize consequences; minimize benefits. Heart tend to go the opposite.
 - Temptation is like a telemarketer: it never takes a day off, comes when least convenient, is annoyingly persistent, keeps pushing even after you say "No", and makes what it is selling sound great...but there is always catch.
- The consequences of sin seldom effect just you & the sin is primarily against God.
 - Satan will not fill you with a hatred of God, but with a forgetfulness of God. Bonhoeffer

Avoid tempting situations & stay busy. Pr. 5:8, Mt. 5:29, Jam 1:13-15

- Foster the desire not to sin at all....not just "sin less"...soldier mentality.
- Get as far away from wall as possible or alcoholic past taverns?
 - If you can't say 'no,' maybe you have said 'yes' too many times earlier in process.
- Take a "check in spirit", fight seriously in the mundane & seemingly insignificant matters.

When necessary, flee temptation. 2 Tim. 2:22, 1 Cor. 6:18 & 10:13

- God is looking for few good cowards.

Why resist temptation? It glorifies God & it is wonderful & pleasing to be like Jesus.

- Temptation is not a useless enemy but creates an opportunity to grow spiritually, increase trust & hope in Christ & if successfully resisted, prepares us for greater things for God.