

Character Study: Joseph

Part 2 – Joseph Battles Temptation

Genesis 39

What's happening?

- Even though Joseph was sold into Egypt, he became very successful because “the Lord was with him.” (39:1-2)
- Potiphar recognized that the Lord's presence was with Joseph and that He blessed all that Joseph did. As a result, Potiphar placed Joseph over his entire household and all his possessions. (39:4-6)
- Potiphar's wife tempted Joseph to lie with her, but he refused. One day she took him by his garment, but Joseph quickly ran out, leaving his garment behind. Upset at Joseph, Potiphar's wife spread a lie that Joseph had tried to take advantage of her. (39:7-18)
- When Potiphar heard this story, he became very angry and threw Joseph in prison. (39:19-20)
- The Lord continued to bless Joseph and gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper. The prison keeper was so impressed with Joseph that he put Joseph over all the other prisoners. (39:21-23)

What's God doing?

- > God blessed Joseph by making him prosper, though at the same time He showed Joseph that he is not above temptation.
- > God continued to carry out His sovereign plan, despite the wrong doings of the people in Joseph's life.

What's to learn?

→ Just as Joseph battled temptation, so do we. Joseph showed us that we can be victorious over temptation by having set convictions and a battle plan. What kind of battle plan do you have that enables you to be victorious over temptation?

→ Sometimes we are wrongly accused of things we have not done. Sometimes life does not seem fair. We must remember that God is in control and continue to behave in a way that shows our trust in Him. What things in your life seem unfair? Is your response to these things demonstrating a trust in God?