

LifeWork Project

JOSEPH: A MORAL STAND AND ITS CONSEQUENCE

Genesis 39:2-20

SCRIPTURE

2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

STUDY

Now the question: How does this Joseph story apply to us as Christians in our modern, highly sophisticated time? I think I can answer that. Let me draw a word picture for you that will show how this applies to us modern folk. Just imagine... you started at this company as a sweeper, did an outstanding job, were noticed by the owner, and got promotion after promotion, to where you finally gained the position as the company's CEO. You have the owner's total trust, and he lets you run the whole show.

Next thing you know the wife of your boss spots you, likes you and propositions you. Not at all unheard of in our society today where morality is not held in the highest esteem. What will cause you to say "no"? I trust that at this point your Christian value system kicks in and you ask for God's strength to be able to resist the temptation, and have the integrity and moral strength to refuse, while fully recognizing that a woman scorned could spell big trouble for you, such as happened in Joseph's case.

So yes, you do the right thing; your respect for the company's owner and your Christian principles and morality win out over the temptation. You know you did the right thing in God's eyes, and feel good about what you did. And then lightning hits as the lady in question screams false accusations.

Your boss fires you and the result of all this is that you end up in jail, all of it unfair, unjust, nothing but a lie. Would we not be furious, in deep despair and cry out, *"Lord where are You in all this? I do what is right in Your sight and here I am in jail!"*

Why not read Genesis 39:21-23 to find out what Joseph did in this case. You will see that he continued to obey God's command that says, *"Whatever your hand finds to do **do** it heartily, as to the Lord, and not as unto men."* His giving his all to the job at hand while wrongly jailed earned Joseph God's blessing.

The message to us today: no matter in what situation you find yourself, no matter where you are, and no matter what your job, do as God's Word commands and be ready to receive His blessing on your efforts. Trust God and you will experience that God, though He may test you, will do what He did for Joseph... ***He'll never let you down.***