



WEEK 2

TRIUMPH OVER TEMPTATION

Genesis 39

His stomach likely growled as a reminder that He had not eaten in 40 days. But hunger was not the only thing intensifying; so was the spiritual warfare. Satan, a shameless opportunist, decided this was a promising moment to try and tempt Jesus. Perhaps he thought, "Surely, He is hungry, let me see if He will succumb to the temptation to fulfill His physical appetite." So, Satan said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But Jesus replied, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" Satan's first attempt to get Jesus to yield to the temptation he offered was unsuccessful, but Satan, being a tormenter, didn't give up that easily. He took Jesus up onto the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem to try another approach to tempting Jesus. This time Satan tried to use scripture against Jesus by saying, "If you are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "It is written again, You shall not tempt the LORD your God." This underhanded move by Satan also proved to be a failure. Then the devil took Jesus up on a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms around Him saying, "All these things I will give to You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only shall you serve.' Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him." (Excerpts taken from Matthew 4:1-11.)

Satan is described in the Bible as a liar, a roaring lion who wants to devour, a thief who is cunning as well as a murderer. With that list of rotten character qualities, it's no wonder he tried to tempt Jesus through many sly schemes! Satan tempted Jesus, the Son of God, in areas which are common to everyone, but He resisted the lust of the eyes (physical food), the lust of the flesh (physical body) and the pride of life (physical possessions). Not once do we see even the slightest hint of hesitation to consider the empty offers extended to Him by Satan. Further, Jesus demonstrated how we should fight the enemy by quoting back scriptural answers for every temptation. Jesus employed the words of James 4:7 which reminds us to "resist the devil and he will flee from you."



Today in our text, Joseph is presented with his own set of relentless temptations and, like Christ, Joseph did not give in to temptation. We will read how, as a high-ranking officer within Potiphar's home, he will gain the unwanted attention of Potiphar's wife. She will pursue him without any restraint in the hopes of having him indulge in sexual sin with her. But, this handsome, young man will not give in to the temptation no matter how alluring it might appear. Joseph stands strong in the face of Satan's plot to devour him. Temptations abound in our daily lives, and we must know how to resist them as well as our enemy. May we be found steadfast and immovable even when the most tempting circumstances arise, knowing that our text today gives us the courage to be triumphant in times of temptation.



R RECEIVING God's Word

Open in Prayer

Read Genesis 39:1-23



E EXPERIENCING God's Word

1. According to Genesis 39:1, Joseph has been bought by Potiphar, Pharaoh's personal security guard as well as an official in Egypt's government. Read Genesis 39:1-6 and list all the words describing God's favor to Joseph as well as to Potiphar.
 - a. Read Genesis 12:1-3. How has God fulfilled his promise to Abraham through Joseph?

- b. From Genesis 39:1-6 how did God directly bless Joseph and Potiphar?
2. Read Genesis 39:6-7. The Bible rarely mentions a person's physical traits. How is Joseph described physically and what effect did this have on Potiphar's wife?
3. Read Proverbs 23:27-28. Here a harlot is described. How does Potiphar's wife fit this description?
4. Scripture tells us in James 1:13 that temptation does not come by God. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says that Satan is the deceiver and deceived Eve by his craftiness. Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to sin using the schemes of the enemy. Based on Genesis 39:7-18, how was Potiphar's wife:
- Persistent?
 - Enticing?
 - Seductive?
 - Forceful?



9. In Genesis 39:19-20, Potiphar learns of his wife's accusations against Joseph. How does Potiphar respond to the accusations? How does Joseph respond?

"If he [Potiphar] had really believed his wife's story, he probably would have had Joseph killed. As it was, he merely placed him in prison – a special prison 'where the king's prisoners were confined (v.20)'." (James Montgomery Boice, *Genesis Volume 3 Living By Faith*, pg. 935)

10. In Genesis 39:21 Joseph is now in prison. This is the second time he has watched his dreams seemingly die. Remember, he had a dream of being in a position of authority, but instead he was thrown in a pit and sold into slavery. Now he is a prisoner after spending eleven years rising to a position of prominence. What was it that sustained him in this difficult and discouraging situation?
11. Read Ephesians 6:5-8. Over the last two chapters we have very little written record of Joseph's response to his trials. What we do see is a steadfast faith in God. How was Joseph a bondservant as described in Ephesians 6:5-8? How was Joseph's steadfastness tied to God?



12. Read Genesis 39:22-23. Joseph's godly character impacts others once again, and God blesses Joseph while in prison. How does God bring about this blessing and what is it?
 - a. In these verses, how does God demonstrate his abiding care and presence to Joseph?

13. Describe how you see God's sovereignty working in Joseph's life to this point.

TIME STAMP



Before the digital age, when important paper documents were received, a clerk would use an ink stamp to mark the time and date on them to stand as an official record of an event. It has been said that life events can also be like “time stamps” upon our hearts. Incidents that happen in life, both good and bad, leave an indelible stamp upon us and are not easily forgotten.

Joseph has many “time stamp” moments in his life. As you look back on this week's lesson, what events would you say are “time stamp” moments for Joseph?



ACTING on God's Word

From the beginning of time, the devil has tried to mess with God's people causing them to shrink back in their faith, disobey God, and fall into full blown sin. If he can't keep people out of God's kingdom, he works to keep them useless for God's kingdom. One of his strategies is enticing people to sin through the lust of their eyes, the lust of their flesh and the pride of life (1 John 2:16). It started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. They lived in beautiful surroundings, had every need filled by God, and had a perfect relationship with Him. It was bliss. And then the enemy slithered his way onto the scene enticing Eve to sin.

The one tree God told Adam and Eve not to eat from is the one tree Satan used to tempt Eve. The enemy first downplayed their need for obedience and then denied the consequences God had given to Eve as a warning. He then enticed her with the beauty of the fruit, speaking of how it would satisfy all her desires. We all probably know the story in Genesis 3. The temptation overpowered Eve as she succumbed to her selfish desires. She took the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, ate it and passed it to her husband, who joined her in the sin. God was true to His Word, as He always is. The consequences were devastating and far reaching, extending out to everyone born after Adam and Eve, including us. Adam and Eve's sin put God's redemptive plan in motion. He would send His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save sinners from the wrath of God and give eternal life through His death and resurrection to all who would believe in Jesus by faith.

1. Romans 3:23 tells us that we are all sinners. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Today, we saw Joseph stand strong in the Lord in the midst of persistent and enticing temptation. Joseph knew that if he participated in Potiphar's wife's temptation he would be sinning before His holy and righteous God. He called sin, sin. Why is this important in temptation?



- a. How does the enemy often downplay sin in our lives, trying to deceive us into believing sin isn't a big deal? How is this effective when he is tempting us?
-
2. Sexual temptations are pervasive and persistent in our culture today. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
 - a. How does the enemy use sexual temptations in the lives of women?
-
3. Joseph said no to temptation. We can too. Saying no to temptation comes through the power of the Holy Spirit and our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Sin is a heart issue as much as an obedience issue. Explain this. How can you overcome temptation through Jesus Christ?



If you've never received Jesus Christ into your heart by faith, you do not have the Holy Spirit empowering you in the area of temptation and sin. Today you can receive Jesus into your heart by faith. Romans 10:9-10 tells us that "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Turn to the "Delighting In Your Salvation" page found at the beginning of this workbook and follow the steps given.



D DELIGHTING in God's Word

From today's verses, how has the Lord prompted you to pray?

Write a verse from the chapter that God has spoken to your heart.

Close in Prayer