

## **DEFEATING TEMPTATION** **(Genesis 39:7-12)**

### **I. Joseph did not rationalize the sin.**

- A. No one was in the house with Joseph and Potiphar's wife.
  - 1. He could have said, we won't get caught.
  - 2. No one will ever know but us.
  - 3. She must really care for me if she keeps after me this way.
- B. There are many things that Joseph could have thought that would have led him to commit this sin.
- C. However, none of those things were mentioned by him.
  - 1. He said I am in control of everything in this house but you, because you are his wife.
  - 2. He also pointed out that it would be a sin against God.
- D. Joseph knew what was being asked of him was wrong and he did not try and rationalize it.

### **II. Joseph did not procrastinate.**

- A. He did not simply go to another room in the house.
- B. He did not think about the offer for a few minutes and come up with excuses.
  - 1. He could have said, I'll only live once so I might as well have some fun.
  - 2. He could have said, I'll get my life right later.
- C. Too many of us wait for a more "convenient season" to avoid sin.
  - 1. Way too often that season never arrives.
  - 2. We allow ourselves to get caught up in a lifestyle that leads us further and further away from God.
- D. At each stage in life there are things that could be used to keep us from getting our lives right.
  - 1. For young people, college life is not more conducive to leading the Christian life.
  - 2. After college, getting a job and trying to make a living and find a spouse take up time from God.
  - 3. The Middle Age years of being married with children are so hectic that time for God won't be found.
  - 4. What generally happens is that people who find themselves in this frame of mind don't ever come across a convenient season.
- E. Paul told the Corinthians that now is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).
  - 1. We don't need to wait and put things off.
  - 2. We don't need to put off doing what we know is right.

### **III. Joseph did not negotiate.**

- A. When Potiphar's wife grabbed his arm he ran.
  - 1. There are times when we can't get completely away or the temptation is not so great that we have to run.
  - 2. When it grabs you, you better go and go quickly.

- B. Joseph had no choice about his work environment and we might not either.
  1. However, if it comes down to it, we have to obey God rather than man.
  2. If it means losing or leaving a job to keep from sinning that is what we have to do.
- C. Paul told the Corinthians to flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18).
- D. It doesn't just have to be fornication from which we flee.
- E. Anything that is a sin must be shunned.

**IV. Joseph had prior convictions.**

- A. Joseph did not have to think about what the proper response might be.
- B. He had made up his mind long before based on what he had been taught about God and His word.
  1. If we wait until we are in a dark room with a person of the opposite sex it is too late.
  2. If we wait until we are sitting over our tax preparation documents and trying to decide if we need to declare everything it is too late.
  3. If we wait until we are in a position where we feel we have to lie to keep things right with someone, it is too late.
  4. On and on we could go.
- C. We need to make up our minds now, if we haven't already, that we are not going to engage in anything that is sinful.
- D. Too much bad happens when we sin.
  1. We shame God and ourselves.
  2. We hurt the church..
  3. We hurt our influence.
  4. Our reputations are damaged.
- E. Make up your mind before you are ever in the situation or else you will be in trouble.

**V. Joseph understood the seriousness of sin.**

- A. Notice verse 9.
- B. Now notice how God views fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).
- C. Listen to Revelation 21:8.
- D. Listen to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.
- E. All these verses, and many more we could notice scream at us that sin is serious to God and it better be serious to us as well.
- F. The world makes jokes out of sin, but God doesn't.

**VI. Joseph looked to the future and not the present.**

- A. Sin is fun, no doubt about it.
  1. I am not crazy enough to believe it isn't.
  2. The Bible even says it is pleasurable (Hebrews 11:25).
- B. Joseph looked to eternal glory and not earthly pleasure.
- C. We have to make a choice if we want to have a good time now or a great time later.

**VII. Joseph understood the love of God.**

- A. How can I sin against God?

- B. Joseph knew God loved him.
  - 1. This is somewhat amazing considering the situation in which Joseph found himself.
  - 2. His brothers hated him enough to kill him and wound up selling him instead.
  - 3. He could have had a “woe is me” type attitude and thought that God didn’t love him so he could do whatever he wanted to do.
- C. God loved you enough to send His Son to die for you.
- D. If we would really get hold of how much God loves us, it would go a long way in our fights with temptation.

From a sermon by Chuck Webster.