

Genesis 39

Genesis 39.1-6

V1 – Old saying: “You can’t carve rotten wood.” – In other words, Joseph could be “carved” by God (like Jacob)

- What happened to Joseph (review)?** Sold to caravan of Ishmaelites – sold to Potiphar in Egypt
- Who was Potiphar?** “Captain of the bodyguard”

V2 – What kind of slave did Joseph make? Successful

- Why?** “The Lord was with him”
- Where was his work?** He was “in the house” of Potiphar
- Note:** Andrew Jackson's house (the Hermitage – outside Nashville) – the slaves advanced from fields to house)

V3 – What did Potiphar observe about Joseph? Lord caused Joseph to prosper

V4 – Did Potiphar respect Joseph as a slave? Yes

- How was Joseph promoted?** Put him in charge of entire house and all that he owned

V5 – When Potiphar promoted Joseph, what did God do for Potiphar? Made him prosper (in the house and in the field)

- Lesson?** God will bless those who are kind to his people

V6 – How much did Potiphar trust Joseph? Completely – turned everything over to him

- One exception?** Preparation of food
- Exodus 43.32* – Egyptians did not allow foreigners to prepare food (maybe the danger of being poisoned)
- Appearance of Joseph?** Handsome (age: about 17)

Genesis 39.7-18

V7 – How would you characterize Potiphar’s wife? Spoiled, impulsive, maybe used to getting her way, no moral standards

- “When the cat’s away, the mice will play,”
- In other words, when her husband was gone, she had nothing to do except get into trouble
- She told Joseph to have sexual relations with her

V8 – What was Joseph’s answer? He refused

- Think about how many people of our generation would have given in
- Joseph was a long way from home (no momma or daddy – no big brothers, no preacher to lecture him, no elders overseeing his soul)
- Summarize Joseph's answer in v 8:** Potiphar trusted him – in other words, when somebody trusts us, we want to do what is right

V9 – Who would know about this sin? Potiphar’s wife, Joseph, and God

- Joseph could not sin against God
- For Joseph, this sin was absolutely out of the question

V 10 – **What did she start doing?** Pestering him day after day

V 11 – **The situation one particular day?** No other men in the house (all outside)

V 12 – **What did she do?** Pulled his clothes off (probably robe, toga, etc.)

V 13 – She realized that she had Joseph’s outer garment

V 14 – **Her accusation?** A “Hebrew” - she probably said it in hatred – a foreigner – racial prejudice, in other words.

- What was her version of what happened?** He tried to rape her – she screamed, and he fled

V 15 – **Is there anything “fishy” about her version?** No one heard her scream

V 16 – **Was anything done about it?** Not immediately

- She waited until Potiphar came home

V 17 – Notice: “Hebrew slave”

- Who did she blame it on?** Potiphar – for bringing Joseph

V 18 – She recited her version of the story

Genesis 39.19-23

V 19 – **What was Potiphar’s reaction?** He was mad at Joseph

V 20 – **What did Potiphar do?** Had him put in jail

- Why didn’t he kill Joseph (probably his legal right)?** Because he must have suspected that his wife was lying

V 21 – **Had Joseph made the right decision?** Yes

- Isn’t it better to do what is right and have the Lord with us?** Yes
- Joseph was favored in the sight of ___?** Chief jailer

V 22 – **What did the chief jailer do?** Put all the prisoners under the command of Joseph

- Joseph was responsible for all that was done at the jail

V 23 – The Lord was with Joseph

- Why was the Lord with Joseph?** Because Joseph was making righteous decisions in his life

Great Lessons from Chapter 39

1. It always pays to do what is right.
2. Evil people will tempt us and say evil things about us.
 - When we are young, we still have to make moral decisions.
 - we are not excused from temptation just because we may be young
3. When we are honest (as Joseph was), people will trust us and elevate us – honesty toward employers today has almost disappeared.

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