

JOSEPH- PROFILE OF COURAGE

Part 3: Courage in Temptation (Ch. 39)

INTRO: Studying life of OT patriarch Joseph. One word can summarize his life ages 17-30 — adversity (undeserved). He suffered deep pain for a long time (13-14 years). Last left him sold in slavery by his brothers and headed to Egypt (37:28, 36). Now purchased from the Ishmaelites by Potiphar, captain of the guard (39:1; 40:3).

SERIES QUESTION: “How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?” Joseph did. We first witness his courage in family conflict (Ch. 37). This chapter can be summarized in one word—betrayed! Sound familiar? Never is Joseph’s courage to trust God more evident than in Ch. 39.

Ch. 38 an interlude describing Judah’s indiscretion — contrast between Judah and Joseph. But messianic seed through Judah!

I. JOSEPH’S PROSPERITY (vv.1-6a)

- A. *Taken to Potiphar’s House* (vv.1-2). The Lord was with Joseph — common theme (vv. 2, 3, 21, 23). If God was with them, then all this wouldn’t be happening.
- B. *Trusted in Potiphar’s House* (vv.3-6a). Potiphar saw God was with Joseph. He became overseer of all Potiphar’s affairs — slave to personal valet! God blessed others through Joseph. Potiphar has total trust in Joseph. God was with him, but Satan was against him.

II. JOSEPH’S INTEGRITY / PURITY (vv.6b-18)

- A. *Mrs. Potiphar’s Relentless Temptations* (vv.6b-12) Mrs. Potiphar notices Joseph, too. She takes direct approach at least three times, while doing his normal duties, totally unexpected, no one around, and appealed to ego and personal advantage. At 17 raging hormones! Brought down many a person (David, Samson).
- B. *Joseph’s Repeated Refusals* (vv.8, 10, 12). Two crucial repeated words: “He refused!” He made a deliberate choice. Interesting how Joseph’s coats keep getting him in trouble! How could he?
 - 1. He valued the trust of others in him (v.8).
 - 2. He valued his own integrity (v.9) — had self-respect, no rationalizations.
 - 3. He valued a moral standard (v.9 “his wife”).

4. He valued God’s reputation (v.9 “sin against God”—He was sensitive to and shocked by sin? (Psa. 51:4) He called sin “sin”. Too often desensitized.

5. He ran (v.12). That’s one way to escape (1 Cor. 10:13; Rom. 13:14). No discussion, just action.

C. *Falsely Accused* (vv.13-18). Heaven has no rage like...a woman scorned! Joseph isn’t too thrilled about his situation (vv.14-15).

III. JOSEPH’S ADVERSITY (vv.19-23)

- A. *Angrily arrested taken to Prison* (vv.19-20a) — Potiphar had his doubts or would’ve had Joseph executed. “Where was God?” (vv. 2, 3, 21, 23). Any doubt? Any self-pity? Response? Serve and help others (40:4).
- B. *Trusted in Prison* (vv.20b-23). — God causes the prison keeper to show Joseph favor (v.21). He gives Joseph charge over all the prisoners (v.22). Joseph prospers (v.23). Joseph had the courage to absolutely trust God regardless of the circumstances.

LESSONS:

- 1. *Others notice when God is with us* (vv.3, 20a-23)
- 2. *A biblical view of sin is essential to live a godly life* (v.9). Joseph called sin “sin” and saw it as against God.
- 3. *Hard work is usually noticed and honored* (vv.3-6, 21-23). Powerful testimony.
- 4. *God will bless others through our faithfulness* (vv.5, 23).
- 5. *Be faithful where you are*. Potiphar’s house, in prison.
- 6. *Unjust mistrust is never an excuse for unfaithful living*.

CONC: SERIES QUESTION: “How would your outlook on life change if you had the courage to really believe God was with you in every situation?” Joseph did. We first witness his courage in family conflict (Ch. 37). Now intense temptation (Ch. 39). Next in Confinement (Ch. 40).