

## **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.