

## EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #83

Genesis 39:6-20

One of the main warnings of the New Testament is the warning to stay away from sexual immorality: **1) Matthew 5:28** - Lust after a woman = committing adultery; **2) Mark 7:21-23** - Out of heart proceeds evil thoughts, fornications. . .adulteries; **3) Acts 15:29** - Abstain from fornication; **4) Romans 13:12-13** - Lay aside deeds of darkness. . .sexual promiscuity and sensuality; **5) I Cor. 5:11** - Do not associate with an immoral person; **6) I Cor. 6:13** - The body is not for immorality; **7) I Cor. 6:18** - Flee immorality; **8) II Cor. 12:21** - I am afraid that you have not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality; **9) Gal. 5:16, 19** - Deeds of flesh are immorality, impurity, sensuality; **10) Eph. 5:3-4** - Let not immorality or any impurity be named among you... no filthiness and silly talk; **11) Col. 3:5-6** - Consider your body dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire...; **12) I Thess. 4:3-7** - Abstain from sexual immorality; **13) Heb. 12:16** - See to it that...there be no immoral or godless person; **14) Hebrews 13:4** - God will judge fornicators and adulterers; **15) I Peter 4:2-3** - Do not live life in the flesh after lusts of sensuality; **16) Rev. 2:14** - People in Pergamum church were rebuked by Jesus Christ for immorality; **17) Rev. 2:20-21** - People in Thyatiran church were warned by Jesus Christ for not repenting of immorality. Clearly sexual immorality is a temptation we must avoid.

Joseph was a man who said no to sinful temptation and he landed in jail.

**THE BELIEVER WHO REFUSES TO YIELD TO SINFUL SEXUAL TEMPTATIONS MAY INITIALLY EXPERIENCE SOME VERY NEGATIVE THINGS, BUT EVENTUALLY THAT BELIEVER WILL BE HIGHLY EXALTED BY GOD.**

In Psalm 105 we learn some critical information about Joseph: God sent him to Egypt ahead of Israel (105:17); when in prison he was bound with irons that hurt his feet (105:18); in the aftermath of this experience Joseph was able to teach others (105:22); it was the LORD who was testing Joseph (105:19).

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #1** - The positive qualities of Joseph. 39:6

Joseph had all the marks of a corporate executive, who would be a prize catch for any woman. He was single and prosperous (39:2-3). He was in management (39:5). He was handsome, which means he had a good form and face (39:6b). Joseph was a well built, good looking, successful, single business man but the reason God will so exalt Joseph is not because of his beauty or body, but his faithfulness to Him. **You can expect temptation to come at you the most, not when you are down and out, but when you are prospering and successful and good at what you do.**

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #2** - The evil enticement of Potiphar's wife. 39:7

Potiphar's wife is a woman who is immoral and a woman who is a liar (39:14-18). For an Egyptian woman who was socially and financially secure to desire a Jewish slave, is a remarkable testimony to Joseph's impressiveness. When she looked at Joseph, she was overtaken with lust and she does not try to seductively lure him into anything, but in a very forthright manner she asks him to lie with her. She wants to have sex with him.

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #3** - The steadfast loyalty of Joseph. 39:8-9

Joseph was a faithful and loyal man of God. When Joseph was faced with a temptation “he refused,” which means Potiphar’s wife could not turn his will to having sex with her. Saying no to temptation is an act of will, not feelings or emotions.

**Area of Loyalty #1** - Joseph was loyal to his master. 39:8-9a

Joseph appreciated his master’s trust. Joseph was in charge over everything that his master owned and he would not violate that trust and touch his wife.

**Area of Loyalty #2** – Joseph was loyal to his God. 39:9b

Verse 9 is clear to reveal that Joseph viewed sexual immorality as a wicked evil sin against God. Joseph did not want to do anything God would classify as evil sin. As W.H. Griffith Thomas said, “To him God was first” (*Genesis*, p. 372).

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #4** - The relentless enticements from Potiphar’s wife.  
39:10- 12a

When you say “no” to temptation, don’t expect it to immediately disappear, because it may intensify. Every day Potiphar’s wife begged Joseph to have sex with her. Sexual harassment is nothing new to our age; it is as old as Genesis.

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #5** - The godly reaction of Joseph. 39:13

The word “garment” indicates it was his outer coat. If ever there were a man who had coat problems it is Joseph. His first coat was taken as proof he was dead and this coat is taken to try to prove rape.

**(Observation #1)** - The best thing to do sometime is literally run away from temptation. Peter says “abstain” from lusts (I Peter 2:11); Paul says flee them (II Timothy 2:22).

**(Observation #2)** - Circumstantial evidence proves nothing. Do not jump to conclusions until you have the facts.

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #6** - The lying reaction of Potiphar’s wife. 39:14-18

Potiphar’s wife is angry that Joseph won’t sleep with her so she makes up lies about him.

**NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE #7** - The emotional wrong reaction of Potiphar. 39:19-20

Potiphar could have executed Joseph, but God had other plans for him.

**Practical Lessons:**

- 1) Faithfulness to God does not mean exemption from trials and temptations.
- 2) Faithfulness to God does mean fleeing and abstaining from the temptation.

- 3) Faithfulness to God is monitored by God through the trials and temptations.
- 4) Faithfulness to God during trials and temptations may bring immediate difficulty into your life.
- 5) Faithfulness to God will ultimately bring great reward and honor.