

EXPOSITION OF GENESIS

Message #82

Genesis 39:1-6

Temptation, according to James, is a necessary part of the Christian life (James 1:2, 12-14). Trials and temptations are the things God uses to prove the faithfulness of His people. In chapter 38, Judah failed the test, but in chapter 39 Joseph passes the test. Staying faithful to God through temptation and trial does not always bring immediate success, in fact, it may bring immediate hardship. Faithfulness does not always bring instant prosperity, but may bring instant persecution.

THE BELIEVER WHO REFUSES TO YIELD TO SINFUL TEMPTATIONS MAY INITIALLY EXPERIENCE SOME NEGATIVE, DIFFICULT AND HOSTILE CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT EVENTUALLY THAT FAITHFUL BELIEVER WILL BE EXALTED AND PROSPERED BY GOD, WHO SOVEREIGNLY OVERSEES EVERYTHING.

The last verse of chapter 37 and the first verse of chapter 39 are very similar in that they stress information about the man who purchased Joseph - Potiphar.

Fact #1 - Potiphar was an officer of Pharaoh. 39:1a - “officer” a eunuch, one castrated

Fact #2 - Potiphar was a captain of the guard. 39:1b - literally “the chief of the executioners”

Fact #3 - Potiphar was an Egyptian. 39:1c

There are six ways God sovereignly blessed Joseph:

WAY #1 - God was with Joseph. 39:2a

This is the key point of this chapter. It is specifically stated that the LORD was “with” Joseph four times in this chapter - 39:2, 39:3; 39:21; 39:23. God’s presence with Joseph meant God’s protection, direction, provision and prosperity. “Luck” had nothing to do with anything connected to Joseph and is a word that should never be in a believer’s vocabulary. In Joseph’s darkest hours, when all others had abandoned him, God was still with him. God was watching over him; protecting him, directing him and prospering him.

WAY #2 - God prospered Joseph in success. 39:2b

The word “successful” is one that means Joseph prospered and succeeded well over the normal limit, to a level of overflowing (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 709). Everything Joseph was touching was turning to gold, because God was permitting him to succeed.

WAY #3 - God prospered Joseph in his location. 39:2c

Joseph was a slave who was allowed to live “in the house.” He did not live in a slave’s quarters, but was in the house of his master. He enjoyed the advantages of living like other wealthy Egyptians.

WAY #4 - God prospered Joseph in Potiphar's estimation. 39:3

The key to the favor Joseph was experiencing was that he was faithful to God. A critical key to you being noticed at your job is "stay faithful to God." Many think human advancement and approval is due to them getting the approval of someone in the company, in all reality it is getting the approval of God.

WAY #5 - God prospered Joseph in Potiphar's promotion. 39:4

Potiphar was so impressed with this "seed of Abraham" that he promoted him to have total charge over everything in his house.

WAY #6 - God prospered Potiphar for Joseph's promotion. 39:5-6

Clear back in Genesis 12, God made a promise - "I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you." **Wise is the business who promotes and cares for a faithful believer.**

The road for Joseph was not easy. There will be one setback after another. But through it .all, Joseph stayed faithful to God and God richly blessed him for it.

Six Key Lessons from six key verses:

Lesson #1 - God is sovereignly directing even the worst possible circumstances of are faithful to Him.

Lesson #2 - God is with this faithful servant everywhere he goes and is involved in everything that happens to him.

Lesson #3 - God will prosper those who remain faithful to Him through difficult circumstances.

Lesson #4 - God will cause certain lost people to recognize that His blessings are occurring in the life of His faithful servant.

Lesson #5 - God, in His time, will promote and prosper His faithful servant.

Lesson #6 - Temptations are destined to occur in the life of the faithful believer and the believer who refuses to yield will see God bless him in many wonderful ways.