

Genesis 39:6b-20

Flee Temptation

Devilish aggression ...

I. The Temptress and Joseph

- A. A Seductress
- B. The Godly Man's Defense

II. The Tempter and Jesus

- A. Satan
- B. And Our Sympathetic Savior

III. Temptation and You

- A. Schemes of the Devil
- B. Strength in Our Weakness

... divine escape.

Children, Listen ...

1. What do you think about Potiphar's wife's behavior?
2. What did Joseph do to get away from her bad idea?
3. Was Jesus ever tempted? If so can you think of how?
4. Even though Jesus was ever tempted to sin, did He ever give in?
5. Can we resist temptation with our own strength? If not, what can we do?

The Wretchedness of Sin

We all face temptation to sin every day – sometimes we are tempted to terribly grievous sin other times (perhaps most often) we are enticed to simply act out our “everyday” depravity. A true understanding of just what sin should help us to see a real need to resist the devil and flee temptation to any sort of sin. If we could see sin it for what it really is it would terrify us, if we could hear it we would cover our ears in desperation, if we could smell it we would retch, if we could taste it we would vomit – you get the idea. Joseph was a sinner like us but he had a good sense of what sin is and he was repulsed by it. In his case he knew catering to his master's wife's uncontrolled passions would be an offense to His God, and that is the key that actually opens the door to understanding sin. But that is not all: he also knew it would totally dishonor Potiphar – and it would of course defile his own body and pollute his own soul. Sin is an offense to our Holy God – if that weren't enough it is a betrayal of our neighbor, sometimes, maybe most often those nearest and dearest to us - and, depending on the severity of the offense it can do untold damage to countless others. And, of course, it is self-destructive. Thank God there is forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ. But that is no excuse to entertain temptation with any affection or pursue sin with any level of comfort. We must know our weakness and find our strength in the Lord who saves us. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. 1Co 10:12-13