

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Hymns Ps 130 T-Martyrdom, 286, 570 Read: Genesis 39:7-12

Text Genesis 39:7-12 Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Temptation (4)

**In considering** Joseph's temptation, we have Already thought of, **The Permission, Period, Place, Pondering, Persistency and Pressure of Joseph's temptation.**

Joseph was tempted in Egypt, the place of work, where he was alone.

There he is attacked in his person, position and proclamation.

His whole being is attacked, in an attempt to make him fail, rendering him unusable, unfit and unable to fulfil the will of God for His life in saving the nation from death.

God has chosen Joseph to be deliverer of the people, it is to Joseph they must go to find provision.

Therefore, as we consider the temptation of a greater than Joseph the Lord Jesus Christ, He was tempted on earth, the place of His redemptive work, tempted as a man, in the wilderness alone.

Christ is God's provision for the salvation of sinners. Christ was sent forth with a redemptive mission to save sinners from eternal death. He alone is the chosen Mediator between God and man. It is to Christ alone sinners must go to for eternal life.

Christ is the only redeemer of God's elect.

Christ as the redeemer has three roles, offices or functions to fulfil. The **SC Q23** asks **what offices doeth Christ execute as our redeemer.** The answer ***Christ as our redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, priest and of a king, in His estate of humiliation and exaltation.***

His temptations refer to Christ humiliation, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

All three offices were attacked by devil, because all three offices taught Christ's person, position, proclamation.

**The first temptation was directed against the prophetic office of Christ.**

**Matthew 4:3-4** if thou be the Son of God, **command that these stones be made bread.**

*The temptation was not so much to eat food, as there was nothing wrong with eating. rather it was to distrust the word and doubt His sonship, His person.*

Live, satisfy and serve self. Put yourself first. Do your will not God's will.

**a message without the sufferings of the cross.**

However, Christ came not to do His own will, Christ came to serve sinners. Christ didn't need to turn the stones into bread because He is the bread of heaven, He feeds and satisfies sinners by His very word.

Christ's life and death was not for Himself but for God's Pre-eminence and Sinners pardon.

**The second temptation was directed against the priestly office of Christ.**

**Matthew 4:5-6** **Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone**

His proclamation as the offering & offeror unto God was attacked.

The devil tempted Him to live outside the will of God. Throw yourself off the temple and save yourself. Call upon angels to save you. Show that you can act apart from the will of God. Show I have power to influence you.

**It was to offer himself without the suffering of the cross,**

Christ alone has all authority when it comes to the house of God. He came to fulfil the will of God in offering Himself to God.

**The third temptation was directed against the kingly office of Christ.**

**Matthew 4:8-9** “**again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; <sup>9</sup> And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me**

The temptation involved, taking the crown without the sufferings cross, to suggest He was not King. His position is attacked as King.

Christ alone is to be worshipped. He alone is King and all belongs to Him and were created by and for Him. His Kingdom will not be divided, He will not share His kingdom.

At the very beginning of His public ministry it was necessary that Christ was permitted to be tested by temptation with respect to all three offices to demonstrate that He was fully reliable, impeccably qualified in His work as the Mediator for His people as their Prophet, Priest and King, providing for them all they need for full deliverance and devotion to God.

For that reason, Christ came to accomplish where the first prophet, priest and king named Adam failed. Christ came to Conquer where Adam was Conquered. Christ came to Succeed where Adam sinned. Christ came to Win what Adam lost, Victory over temptation to Honour God.

Believer whatever the temptation, however long you are tempted, the place and pressure, and other points mentioned, note as Paul said in **Romans 8:37** “ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*”

**There are two more thoughts I would like to share regarding Joseph's temptation.**

### **VII SEVENETH, THE POWER OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION.**

In summarising **verses 7-12**, Never forget that Joseph's temptation was a real temptation. It was a strong temptation.

His temptation of power appealed to the flesh. Such is the web or net that catches many. To be entangled in a web of lust, and lies.

By her temptation Potiphar's wife suggested that Joseph would benefit from it as well.

He is young, single, and unmarried. Therefore, its to make him feel he's missing out. There is need and she can meet it.

Her temptation gave the impression since Joseph is a slave and all the matters of the house are given to him, and then she fits into that bracket.

Therefore, the temptation is cause Joseph to think the same, and that Potiphar would not disapprove.

You see Potiphar's wife knows what Joseph says to be true concerning Potiphar in **verse 8** *he hath committed all that he hath to my hand*; she plays on this, and tries to twist the meaning for her advantage, in other words, since all that belongs in this house is given to you than in included.

Just as Satan twists the meaning of God's hath God said, are you sure that what he meant? Eat, disobey and you will die. Try it and see.

Joseph puts her lies to an end, in **verse 9** “...*neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife.*”

Yes my master has given me all things in this house, but he specifically pointed out not you.

Potiphar's wife then adds to the temptation, her words and their force gets stronger, she wants Joseph, and therefore speaks in a manner that would tempt him to surrender.

She was giving herself to Joseph. Her words are poison, her actions are explosive, her motives are unscriptural.

Therefore, as we consider Christ's temptation His was the strongest ever known to man. He was tempted aggressively because of who is was. The devil wanted to find a weakness in Christ, because a weak Christ is a powerless Christ.

When Christ was tempted, each temptation was stronger, more was added. They increased from stones, to a building to kingdoms.

Therefore believer the temptation that you are facing is a strong one, its getting more aggressive, your losing ground, its getting closer, its getting hard to resist, all the extras are being added on, depending what the temptation is,

But the force of temptation is is powerful, your missing out, there is a gap in your life that's needs filled, you'll regret it if you don't try it, join in with it, see it, don't smoke, drink it, or go to it, ah on go on give it a try.

And you are Caught on a hook, being pulled closer, we are that weak, we don't even put a fight up.

Isn't that part of fishing, to catch fish, attract them, but using all kings of bait,

Here is the devil is using live bait.

With Joseph the temptation, is sexual sin, the enemy has come in like a flood.

The devil takes the temptation to find a weakness to cause you to give in.

That weakness covers what John says in **1 John 2:16** ***For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world***

When your mind and eye sight have lost all focus, you are stuck.

You have hit a spiritual ice berg and are sinking faster than the Titanic, where you will spend the rest of days, in spiritual ship wreck, falling part, wasting away.

people will only see is what is left of what was once in use. To hear stories what you used to be like. If you had of known that person years ago, faithful at prayer meetings, quoted verses, never missed church, got involved.

Believer, to stop that from happening, look out for spiritual ice bergs, things that you may think will not make an impact, and ruin your life.

encourage yourself in the Lord, put on the helmet of salvation and guard the mind. Christ's grace is sufficient, He is able to guard the mind and eye sight.

Christ's temptation was presented to his eye and mind. But Christ did not fail. There is wonderful picture of description of Christ through **Song of Sol 5: 12** we are told that "**His eyes are as the eyes of doves.**"

The dove is the symbol of purity, remember that the Holy Spirit came on Christ in the form of a dove. Christ in His purity is incapable of being ensnared by sin.

Therefore, believer draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. He is your vision, defence and stronghold in day of temptation.

As the captain of our salvation He will bring us to safety.

### **VIII EIGHTH THE PURPOSE OF JOSEPH'S TEMPTATION.**

As far as Potiphar's wife goes she tempts Joseph to satisfy her own lusts.

Up to now all that takes place in her point of view is please self. Her purpose is to keep the whole thing a secret.

She tempted Joseph expecting him to move toward her and fulfil her desires. In the twisted thinking of this woman, if Joseph went along with her lustful request, then it would be their little secret, no one needs to know.

And of course, when there is that line of thinking alarms bells ought to be going off, fire works must be exploding as a sign, what is going on and what is about to happen, is sin against God.

Young people be careful, when in a certain situation that's getting uncomfortable, and a person or people suggest anything to you and then say, don't tell your parents, school teacher, no one needs to know, its our secret, no one will find out. That may range from many things.

**Listen When you have to question if a situation or what is taking place, is this right, should I be doing this, then you are close to doing wrong.** see it As great wickedness against God.

That's why her words spoken are discrete so none else can detect them, only Joseph, and it is why she makes her move when they are alone, so none can see what really took place.

Yet the Lord knew!

Therefore, the very fact that Joseph refuses her temptation and flees the presence of his masters wife, she is embarrassed, exposed, and maybe she thinks before Joseph says anything I will get in first, and it is then she moves from her own desires to ruin Joseph.

She plots against Joseph, and accuses Joseph of coming unto her in a sexual manner. There no witnesses, plus shes the masters wife, who would even dare question her. Over everyone else she has power, and position, .

She creates scene, **verses 14-16** *That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: <sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. <sup>16</sup> And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. then she tell him her lies.*

Off course, unknown and undetected by her the devil was working through Potiphar's wife in an attempt to ruin Joseph.

The devil purpose was to hinder God's redeemed people and God's redemptive purpose not only in Joseph's life but ultimately Christ.

God had a purpose for Joseph's life, which had already been revealed by God in Joseph's dreams in Genesis 37.

God purposed that in a future day Joseph would sit be exalted high above all.

Through Joseph's power, position, provisions, he would preserve the nation. The nation which made up the 12 tribes of Israel,



which were Jacob's sons. From one of those tribes namely Judah, would Christ promised Redeemer come.

The devil's purpose to destroy Joseph would also destroy the coming of Christ.

the devil made every attempt the stop the cross work of Christ, by Temptation after temptation,

Even on the cross, Christ was tempted not to fulfil His redemptive mission.

As Christ suffered the just for the unjust, paying for all the sins of sinners He came to save, notice in **Matt 27:39-43** ***"...If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Prophet/person***

***<sup>41</sup> Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, <sup>42</sup> He saved others; himself he cannot save.***

### ***Priest/proclamation***

***If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.***

King/position,

here is the key **verse 43** ***"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.*** If Christ came down from the cross, He would not have finished His redemptive purposes and failed in proclaiming who He said He is. But he stayed on the cross, to save sinners like you and me.

Believer keep in mind when God is working through your life or advancing His work, the devil will target that individual and that work.

(Peter warning the church of Christ said in **1 Peter 5:8** "***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.*** The word (**devour**, means **to swallow up, to drink down.**

(The same idea is when you take a drink or eat food, you do so (completely so there is nothing left, its all gone.

(The point is the devil wants to ruin your life as to swallow you up to make you unusable in God's work, unrecognisable to those who know you, unsociable that others will feel unwelcome and uneasy in church and leave. The devil wants to make you unstable in life, untrustworthy, unfaithful in every area of your life (at work, marriage, home, church, school.)

Both Joseph and Supremely Jesus shows the redemptive purpose of God can never fail.

God has purposed to save a people and He has secured that people for all eternity. He has supplied for that people all they need to enjoy victory in daily battles.

God is ever guiding His people to bring them safely home, as a shepherd who guides the sheep. It is only when we are absent from the body and present with the Lord will God's purposes in our life be finally fulfilled.