

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 31st July 2022 Hymns, Ps 111v1-8 Tune Winchester, 224, 165 Read: Genesis 39:11-20
Text Genesis 39:11-20 Series: Joseph (29) Title: Joseph Falsely Accused (2)

As a young Christian, Joseph knew by experience the words which were written later in **Acts 14:22**

that the one who continues in the faith *must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God*. Joseph's life testifies it is not an easy road we are traveling to heaven for many are the thorns that we meet.

As **James 1:2-3 states** *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

Joseph having triumph over temptation, is now falsely accused.

Immediately after victory, then came another challenge, a rematch with trials.

Potiphar's wife will not let Joseph away with refusing her temptation, she will not allow him to refuse her to honour God.

The greater view is this, it's not so much that Joseph refused the temptation which he did.

But Rather, He chose to honour God.

Men and woman, always go through with God.

The charge and the Contempt of Joseph being falsely accused.

III THIRD, THE COST OF JOSEPH BEING FALSELY ACCUSED.

Potiphar's wife kept up her story. In **verse 16**, When her husband returns home from wherever he was, we learn in **verse 17** she tells him her false account, spreading her lies.

The slanderous, unjust accusation by Potiphar's wife really hurt Joseph. It cost him.

He paid a very high price for honouring God, but later God abundantly blessed him.

1 The cost of his reputation.

When Joseph was brought to Potiphar's house, he quickly built a good reputation. Potiphar and others could see a difference in Joseph's life.

Things were getting better for Potiphar than ever. His house and boundaries were blessed for Joseph's sake. Potiphar could see the Lord was with Joseph. He gave his responsibility over the affairs in his house.

Potiphar and his wife seen outwardly what God knew to be true inwardly. There was no false impression.

Joseph was upright, honest, faithful, one who lived to honour God these were spiritual qualities or spiritual characteristics of a young man of God.

but while the false charge didn't change any of these characteristics in Joseph's life, it did cost him his reputation among people.

The master's wife could ruin Joseph's reputation among people and his master, raising questions against his character getting others to change their views about him, but she could never cause God to change His view of Joseph.

Potiphar's wife wanted to give the impression that Joseph was impure, dishonest, untrustworthy, and a mocker, leaving him with a bad name.

Because the truth in the matter is this, weather an accusation is false or true, the very fact an accusation has been raised, causes people to think and question, something must have happened for that to be said, surely the master's wife would not make such a serious accusation if not true.

And if enough people believe it and spread it then the persons reputation is destroyed, they are finished.

In this case the accusation was false, but the very fact an accusation was created and brought against Joseph, cost him his reputation among others, the men of the house, servants, and Potiphar himself.

It was to damage his reputation, to make it impossible for him to recover.

To the master's wife, Joseph will never be back, he will not recover from this.

But as stated, **the master's wife can ruin his reputation in the eyes of those around Joseph but she could never ruin his character in the sight of God.**

Character is who we are that is what God sees and knows, a reputation is what we build, that others see.

And it's the reputation, what takes years to build that can be brought down in seconds.

Reputation is open for all to view, it's the outward impression, when you enter a new congregation, new job, school, meet new people, new Neighbourhood, you start to build a reputation.

People know you for certain things a man or woman of honesty, of prayer, of the book, lives nears the cross, a faithful servant of

God, upright, moral, a good worker, always on time, put the effort in, a good neighbour, always there in a time of need, **but when there is the slightest accusation, all that is questioned.**

The devil uses people like this woman, but sadly he also uses Christians to accuse one another, ruining reputations, dividing churches.

What are you to do believer in such times, do what **Daniel** did as adored time, keep praying and living for God, or as **Solomon** trust in the Lord with all thine heart.

Like Hezekiah **2 Kings 19:14-16** "**Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD.**

above all look to the life of Christ, despite being falsely accused, betrayed, lied against, listen to and follow **Christ's** prayer, to glorify God on earth and finish His work.

Therefore, believer we live unto the Lord, take it to the Lord in prayer. He knows and sees what others fail to see what He sees in secret He will reward openly. **Proverbs 2:8** "...**He preserveth the way of His saints.**

2 The cost of his occupation

Genesis 39:1-6, Joseph was bought by Potiphar to work as his slave and servant. Of course through time more responsibilities were added. He had been promoted.

He was the best servant yeah a slave among slaves. Joseph was over the whole house and did what was required and more.

One day Joseph's character was tested. His Biblical principles were on the line. Honouring God was at stake.

At the work place he was tempted, continual pressure and pursuit from another person, this case a married woman, begging

Joseph to live a little, have a little fun try something new, what's been missing in his life.

Her language was a cover up for the sin a adultery.

Now from this point onwards no matter what Joseph decided, things would never be the same.

But what will Joseph do?

what or who will motivate him to make the right decision.

Will he think about job security, further promotions, quick pleasures, or will be put the LORD first and honour Him.

Joseph now must decide between fulfilling the lust of the flesh or walking in the Spirit.

When Potiphar's wife acted upon her lust in reaching out for Joseph, he refused and rejected her seeing it as sin, great wickedness against God.

The woman then falsely accused him of coming unto her in a sexual manner, it cost him his occupation, his carer any further and future promotion.

Dear men and woman maybe you have been there, some are there now, and some will be there later.

You will make decisions, to refuse someone or something because you are choosing the ways of God.

However, to choose God is never to decide, its simply doing what is right to Honour Him and know blessing.

Maybe a promotion, an opportunity arises, to get noticed, but to accept it you must dishonour God.

It may be someone is tempting, acting toward you in way that is uncomfortable, unpleasant, and if you don't respond with favour,

it will cost you. There's a threat, blackmail, pressure. They say, you'll never succeed in this business, you'll never work here again, or pass these exams, be in our group, I'll make sure of that.

If your situation is either dishonour God or honour God, then honour God.

You must answer Joshua's question in **Joshua 24:15** *choose you this day whom ye will serve*; But in answering take his counsel to be yours, "...*but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD*

Learn from Joseph, Don't look ahead and think If I do this or do not do this, this could happen, Rather always obey the Lord.

David prayed **Psalm 35:1** "*Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.* **Psalm 138:8** *The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me*

Do what is right according to scripture, live in honour to God and *God will take care of the rest, deal with the pest, and give you His very best.*

IV FOURTH, THE COMPROMISE IN JOSEPH BEING FALSELY ACCUSED.

If there was anyone who could have spoken up in defence of Joseph or challenge the false account, it would be Potiphar himself.

The men of the house would not dare say anything contrary to the master's wife, not even look the wrong way.

However, there is very good reason to maintain that Potiphar believed Joseph which meant he did not believe a word his wife said.

Notice in **verses 19-20** his reaction or expression when told, ***And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.***

20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.”

Many make the point that ***his wrath was kindled***, meaning ***he is burning with anger***, but scripture does not say against Joseph. I suggest he knows he has lost the best servant.

But Because of his position, Potiphar must act, there must be punishment, the supposed unfaithfulness of his trustworthy servant must be dealt with, otherwise the men of the house and other servants might rebel, think their actions can go unpunished.

Potiphar position, stated in **Genesis 39:1** ***an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard***, These words can be read ***the chief of the slaughtermen, or chief of executioners***.

Potiphar has position, and power not only to put law breakers in jail but to execute criminals.

If Potiphar really believed Joseph was guilty he would have demanded his death there and then, and he would have performed the execution himself.

The crime that Joseph was accused of is treason, betrayal of his master, therefore, worthy of death.

Of course, there is a thought that Potiphar could only execute at Pharaohs command. Since Pharaoh gave no authorisation then only the action Potiphar could take was to place Joseph in prison.

We know Potiphar trusted Joseph enough to give into his hands the running of his house. He could see a difference in Joseph life. He prospered because of Joseph. He paid attention to the details.

But **Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.**"

Joseph the slave is now the prisoner, some might suggest from the time he was sold he was a prisoner. But now he is in jail.

To get some more details of this account, notice, **Psalm 105:17-18** "**He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:¹⁸ Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:**

Joseph accused of crimes he did not commit by a false witness, is now chained in the Kings prison and now numbered among the transgressors.

Joseph is now viewed and treated and as a guilty criminal.

What a view we have of Christ, the innocent, holy, harmless and undefiled one, who was accused by false witness, and then taken a prisoner and numbered with the transgressors viewed and treated by all as guilty.

This was all part of God plan to save the nation, preserve the seed line to which Christ would come through.

When Christ was arrested we read in **John 18:12** "**Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him**

(Its interesting to note, when Christ stood before Pilate, Pilate said **I find no fault in Him**, he knew for envy and hatred the Jews wanted Christ crucified, Pilate knowing Christ was innocent, still sided with the false accusation of the crowd.

Humanly speaking Pilate said in **John 19:10** **knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release**

thee? Divinely speaking Christ answered, verse 11 ***Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:)***

Mark 15:28 “***and the scripture was fulfilled which saith, and He was numbered with the transgressors.***”

Here the reference is to the fulfilment of the prophecy of **Isaiah 53:12** that in His humiliation and suffering Christ would be associated with mere criminals; and He was when He was crucified between the two thieves as **Mark 15:27** records.

It is the word **numbered** is an interesting word with much truth.

It is the word meaning **imputation, impute, accounted**, meaning to place on someones account. The over all idea is how a person is viewed and treated.

The same word and meaning is applied to justification, when God imputes or places to the believing sinner's account the reward of Christ's perfect obedience, then God views and treats the believing sinner as pardoned, forgiven.

Likewise at Calvary, Christ was viewed, or accounted by the people as a transgressor, a criminal, and then He was treated as a transgressor, by being placed upon a Cross for punishment.

Now we know Christ was upon Cross not for any sin of His own, for He had none. But He was there as the representative and surety of His people.

God took all the guilt, all the sin, of those people and he made Christ accountable for it. He took responsibility for their sins and paid all their debt, by having all their sins laid upon Him.

Christ bore all the sins of all His people from all ages on His own body on the Tree.

All He did upon Calvary was on behalf of those He came to save. Therefore, while Christ was upon Calvary, God viewed Christ as guilty and treated Him as Guilty. He was punished for our sins.

That is the only reason why God views and treats believers as forgiven.

Everything in Joseph, and Christ's life was according to the word of God, and it is the same with our life.

The Apostle Peter exhorts in **1 Peter 4:19**, "**Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.**"

This is what Joseph did. He was suffering according to the will of God and he placed his life confidently into the hands of His God, who being his Creator would also be his Preserver.

This is what we must do believer.

Take counsel from David's words in **Psalm 37:5** "**Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass.**

The phrase **commit thy way** in Hebrew means **Roll thy way upon**.

Whoever, and whatever is spoken against you, burdens, troubles you, your back is against the wall, it's seems no way out, roll it out upon the Lord, He makes a way to escape out of the snare.

The same thought In **Psalm 55:22** **Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.** The word '**suffer**' signifies **to give, or to allow**; The word '**moved**' can also be translated **to be carried, to slip, or to be removed**.

David here is saying that God will never give His people up, never permit them to be carried away or to be removed from the rock of their salvation, who is Christ Jesus, our Lord.

This was true of Joseph and it is true of you believer.

