

## Joseph Lesson 12

### INTRO:

- A. **Smith's Bible Dictionary** lists ten men in the Bible with the name "Joseph."
  - 1. Two of those ten had a father named "Jacob."
- B. The Joseph of our study is one we read about in Genesis 37-50, the son of Jacob and Rachel.
  - 1. Joseph is the first son of Jacob by Rachel.
  - 2. Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah (Genesis 29:30).
  - 3. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other children (Genesis 37:3).
    - a. Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors.
  - 4. Joseph's brothers...(Genesis 37:4)
    - a. To make things worse, Joseph told his brothers two dreams he had.
      - 1) (Genesis 37:7)
      - 2) (Genesis 37:9)
- C. Joseph's life is filled with suffering, anguish, and sadness.
- D. Joseph is among those in the "Hall of Faith" **Hebrews 11:22**
- E. What are the lessons we can learn from Joseph?

### I. **DOING THE RIGHT THING DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN THINGS WILL GO RIGHT!**

- A. The jealousy, hatred, and resentment of Joseph's brothers led them to sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites/Arabian traders. (**Genesis 37:28**)
- B. In Egypt, the traders sold him to Potiphar, (**Genesis 37:36**).
- C. Joseph remained faithful and obedient to the commandments of God even in a strange land and because of this,... (**Genesis 39:2**).
- D. God's blessings helped Joseph to find favor with his master and eventually made him overseer of his house. However, the story doesn't end here.
- E. Potiphar's wife "*casts longing eyes on Joseph*" (**Genesis 39:7**) and seduced him to lie with her.
  - 1. This did not just happen once, but day after day until Potiphar's wife forced herself on Joseph as a last resort. She tried to force Joseph to lie with her but Joseph fled.
    - a. He always refused and did not give in to the seduction of his master's wife.
    - b. **Genesis 39:9**
- F. There are a lot of lessons from Joseph in Potiphar's house that we would do well to remember:
  - 1. Joseph did the right thing, but something good did not result, at least at the moment.
    - a. Potiphar's wife accused Joseph. (**v. 17**)
    - b. Potiphar's "*anger was aroused*" (**v. 19**) and he "*put him into the prison,*" (**v. 20**).
      - 1) Joseph was imprisoned for doing the right thing.
  - 2. Life is unfair. But God is always fair.
    - a. This is the reality every Christian must face: Doing the right thing will not necessarily lead to a good outcome.
  - 3. Christ was perfect and did not commit a single sin.

Joseph  
Lesson 12

- a. Yet, He suffered the most excruciating and agonizing death penalty man has ever conceived.
- 4. Being a Christian is not easy. However, God has this to say for those who will choose to faithfully follow Him: **I Peter 2:19-21; Matthew 5:11-12**
  - a. Following God and Christ is not always convenient.
    - 1) It will lead to difficulties and persecutions.
    - 2) It is only natural that we suffer during this lifetime.
  - b. Though our life as a Christian may be tough, we can all be assured that our reward will be worth it.

II. **“ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD,”  
(ROMANS 8:28)**

- A. Despite the events in Joseph’s own house and in Potiphar’s house, Joseph meets Pharaoh’s chief butler and baker while in prison.
  - 1. They both have dreams and Joseph interprets the dreams for them.
    - a. The butler’s dream meant he would be reinstated to Pharaoh’s house while the baker would be hanged.
  - 2. Joseph told the butler to remember him to Pharaoh, but instead of remembering Joseph, the butler forgot him. (Genesis 40:23).
    - a. So, after showing goodness to the butler, Joseph was again repaid with unkindness.
- B. When all hopes seem to fade, Pharaoh had a troubling dream no one was able to interpret.
  - 1. All of a sudden, the butler remembers Joseph and mentions him to Pharaoh.
    - a. Joseph’s faith remained strong throughout the years of his stay in Egypt and he confirmed his faith to God by acknowledging Him to be the Supreme Giver of knowledge and wisdom.
      - 1) He said,...(**Genesis 41:16**).
  - 2. After interpreting Pharaoh’s dream and suggesting a way to deal with the great famine that was soon to come upon Egypt, Pharaoh made this statement to Joseph for everyone to hear: **Genesis 41:39-41**
    - a. What a remarkable turn of event! Joseph, who was a prisoner, was suddenly turned into the most powerful ruler in the land of Egypt next to the Pharaoh!
    - b. Let us realize as Christians that no matter what happens in our lives, we can always have the confidence that God is in ULTIMATE control!
    - c. We can always trust the word of God. **Deuteronomy 31:6**
- C. Joseph’s life is among the best examples on how God works out His plan.
  - 1. Though we might not understand the things that are now happening, we must have the faith that God will work all things for good!

III. **THERE’S NO EXCUSE GOOD ENOUGH TO BREAK GOD’S COMMANDMENT!**

- A. Joseph, at a very young age, lost everything!

Joseph  
Lesson 12

- B. Joseph could have all the reasons in the world to do what was right in his own eyes and forget God.
  - 1. He was betrayed by his brothers; sold to slavery;
  - 2. Imprisoned after resisting the seduction of Potiphar's wife;
  - 3. Forgotten by the butler after interpreting his dreams.
- C. Joseph could have just made up one excuse after another and gave up.
- D. After all, he could have the best life there is in Egypt by compromising his godly principles.
  - 1. He is in a foreign land.
  - 2. His parents are away.
  - 3. No one would rebuke him for doing what was wrong.
  - 4. No one would hold him accountable for giving in to temptation.
  - 5. After years being in Egypt, he could have easily dismissed God as Someone who doesn't care.
- E. But Joseph's integrity and dedication to God kept him on the right track.
  - 1. If God's will is important to us, we'll find every reason to follow Him instead of making excuses.
- F. Joseph has all the excuses and reasons in the world to stop obeying God.
  - 1. How easy is it for us to break God's commandments?
  - 2. How easy is it for us to compromise and just give in to temptation?
  - 3. What's our excuse/excuses?
  - 4. What do we say to ourselves when we are rationalizing our sin?
- G. We need to come to a realization that there is really no excuse good enough for us to sin! Sin is sin!
  - 1. The moment we give in to temptation because of excuses, we are losing the opportunity to develop godly character and to show God that we can...  
**(2 Peter 3:18)**
  - 2. So, let us do away with all the excuses we might use. **(Hebrews 12:2).**

**IV. LEARN TO DELAY GRATIFICATION.**

- A. We need to overcome the temptation of instant gratification.
  - 1. We live in a world where we are bombarded with many opportunities of instant gratification.
    - a. Technological advances has made our lives easier to the point that we feel entitled to have all the good things in this life.
    - b. It seems that with just a simple push of a button, we can instantly have what we want.
- B. Since this world is geared towards the way of getting, we can easily see why this world has a serious lack of patience.
  - 1. Part of being faithful is being patient.
- C. Joseph knew this and he was very patient to wait for God's promise.
  - 1. He remembered his dream where God revealed unto him that he would rise to power.
    - a. Exactly when and how that would happen, he didn't know.

Joseph  
Lesson 12

- b. All he and we need to know is that God never lies (Titus 1:2) and what God has promises, He is able to deliver (Isaiah 46:10).
- D. Joseph has learned the art of delayed gratification.
  - 1. It's the process of denying ourselves the temporary and immediate pleasure that sin can give in order to have a greater joy and genuine blessedness in the presence of God.
  - 2. Instead of giving in to temptation, he "*left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside*" (Genesis 39:13).
    - a. Notice the determination of Joseph. He did not just walked away from temptation, but he "**FLED**" and "**RAN**"!
- E. What about us? Will we enjoy sin for just a brief moment or will we suffer now but enjoy God's full blessings for eternity?

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. The story of Joseph helps us to see how God works in the grand scheme of things.
- B. God knows every detail of our lives.
  - 1. He is our Father and like an earthly father, "*no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly*" (**Psalms 84:11**).
- C. The lessons from Joseph's life are POWERFUL.
  - 1. We need to remember that these lessons will be useless if we don't put it into practice.
- D. When Joseph makes himself known to his brothers, he said, "*But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life... So now it was not you who sent me here, but God*" (**Genesis 45:5, 8**).
- E. Joseph understood that all the events which had happened in his life were according to God's plan.
  - 1. We need to also have the faith that God has a plan for us and He is currently working with us.
  - 2. God is not yet done so let us be patient and faithful.