



GENESIS

Joseph in Potiphar's House and In Prison **Genesis 39**

1. The text shows us that Potiphar noticed that the Lord was with Joseph, and he succeeded in all he did. This was evident because Joseph's work ethic reflected Christ and gave glory to God. Do others see the difference that Jesus makes in your life by how you work? When you reflect on the work you do, what does your work ethic reflect about Christ? Is Christ visible in your character?
Colossians 3:17
2. Joseph's motivation to work hard with integrity had nothing to do with career advancement or accolades. Those were not options as a slave. Instead, his motivation centered on pleasing the Lord. Is pleasing Christ your main motivation for the work that you do?
Colossians 3:17-23
3. The temptation of Joseph reveals the spiritual battle that is taking place between God's will and Satan seeking to derail God's will. Where is Satan seeking to derail your life? Do you avoid places of temptation, or do you seek them out? Do you understand the effects of sin on your life?
James 1:13-17, Genesis 20:9, Psalm 51, 2 Timothy 2:22
4. Where is God shaping you for heaven through your ordeals on earth? Do you trust that God is working? Do others see Christ in the shifting circumstances of your life? Where do you need to let God shape your perspective? How is God shaping your character? Do you recognize God as the centerpiece of your story?
1 Peter 1:3-7

Genesis 39

¹When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

²The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. ⁵From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. ⁶So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. ⁸But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. ⁹No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

¹⁰She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. ¹¹One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. ¹²She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

¹³When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, ¹⁴she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. "Look!" she said. "My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed.

¹⁵When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me."

¹⁶She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. ¹⁷Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. ¹⁸"But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!"

¹⁹Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. ²⁰So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. ²¹But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love.

And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. ²²Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.

²³The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.