



6- Heal a Family/Build a Nation

10/18/2009 - Jim Johnson – Gen. 39:7-19

Joseph had turned his lemons into lemonade and rose to the very top of his little world in authority and power – and that is when temptation happened. Fortunately he was prepared. Perhaps there is something we can learn from him

A. A First Response to Temptation – 6-8a

Potiphar was the master of the house, but he wasn't a very smart guy. He allowed himself to be replaced by Joseph who also happened to be well chiseled and very attractive in appearance. Mrs. Potiphar found him to be irresistible and made a pass at him. Joseph refused.

When temptation knocks: _____

If Joseph would have stopped to think about it, he would have been tripped up. He had been betrayed and had every reason to be angry with God. He might have decided that getting close to the Mrs. might even be helpful to his career. He might have wrangled some twisted sense of justification for it. He didn't stop to reason, he just refused

B. A Second Response to Temptation: _____ 8-9

When Joseph was tempted he was able to refuse because he remembered certain truths that were essential to him

1. Joseph remembered his _____

He told her that he was put in a position of trust. To yield to this temptation would be a terrible breaking of that trust. When temptation strikes, remember that there are people who depending upon you; people who are trusting you. Don't let them down.

2. Joseph remembered the _____

Joseph pointed out to her that she was the wife of Potiphar. There was marriage that needed to be respected. She was not his to have.

3. Joseph remembered the _____

Even in Egyptian culture, adultery would have been considered an act of treachery. Because it was evil, there would be consequences. One of the most effective things you do about temptation is to think through the costs of sin – in advance. For instance - If you are tempted to lust, sit down and make a list of the possible consequences should you give into lust. When we think through the consequences of sin in advance, it tends to make temptation look far less attractive.

4. Joseph remembered his _____

He called it a sin against God. He would have jeopardized his intimacy with God, had he sinned. If he were to grab for that woman, he would have to let go of God to do so. He was unwilling to do that.

C. A Third Response to Temptation: 10-12

She was obsessed so she worked on him day after day. But Joseph knew that he could not cede an inch in this battle. He did not lie beside her nor did he permit himself to be alone in the house with her (10) But the day came when she physically grabbed his outer cloak and pulled him to herself. Joseph ran for the door.

When temptation knocks we must _____

This kind of temptation is so powerful, so overwhelming. You can't discuss it away, you cannot reason with it. You must flee it. Run away. Run to God in prayer. Run to call your accountability partner. Run for your Bible. Run for home – just run.

D. A Fourth Response to Temptation: 13-19

She knew that she had crossed the line and she could not blackmail Joseph to keep her secret because he had refused. So she reframed the event in such a way as to put the guilt on Joseph. She told her servants that Joseph had forced himself on her. She had the evidence of his tunic in her hand. (13-15)

When her husband came home she repeated her lie word perfect. (16-18) He listened to her inflammatory accusations and his anger burned. But there is no indication that his anger was directed toward Joseph. He was wise enough to see what was going on. He saw that Joseph was being falsely accused. But he would lose face if he sided with Joseph. Potiphar was angry that his wife had put him in that position and that he was forced to get rid of his most valuable business manager.

When temptation knocks we must _____

Joseph had done a really great job of protecting himself. But when it was all said and done, she had his garment in her hand, and it was his word against hers. Was there anything else he could have done? Yes, as first in charge he had the authority in that house to arrange things so that he and she would never be found alone. (eg: employ an assistant) There were things that he could have done that would have protected him not only from evil, but from the appearance of evil. Though he escaped the temptation, he did not escape the ruin of his reputation.

CONCLUSION

Temptation is out there. We will encounter it repeatedly throughout the course of our lives.

We can either prepare for it or be _____ by it.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Joseph was prepared to meet temptation. To what degree are you prepared? In what respect are you most vulnerable?
2. Joseph paid a steep price for resisting temptation. Which would have been most costly succumbing or resisting?
3. Is there a Mrs. Potiphar in your life these days? (A person or circumstance that represents temptation to you?) If so, what will you do?