



SAVED TO SERVE

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LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue our series learning lessons from the life of Joseph. We will look at Joseph's decision to stand up for principle in the midst of severe temptations in Egypt.

2. **Note:** Once Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to Potiphar as a slave. God blessed Joseph and everything he did prospered. See Genesis 39:1-6.

3. When Potiphar's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph, what did she ask of him? Genesis 39:7

Answer: _____

4. What was Joseph's response to her in Genesis 39:8, 9?

Answer: _____

5. What do we fail to keep in the forefront of our mind which leads us to sin against God? See quotation.

"If we were to cherish an habitual impression that God sees and hears all that we do and say and keeps a faithful record of our words and actions, and that we must meet it all, we would fear to sin. Let the young ever remember that wherever they are, and whatever they do, they are in the presence of God. No part of our conduct escapes observation. We cannot hide our ways from the Most High. Human laws, though sometimes severe, are often transgressed without detection, and hence with impunity. But not so with the law of God. The deepest midnight is no cover for the guilty one. He may think himself alone, but to every deed there is an unseen witness. The very motives of his heart are open to divine inspection. Every act, every word, every thought, is as distinctly marked as though there were only one person in the whole world, and the attention of heaven were centered upon him." {PP 217.4}

6. How often was Joseph tempted by Potiphar's wife to commit fornication? Genesis 39:10 Answer: _____

7. How did Satan set the stage for Potiphar's wife to seduce Joseph? Genesis 39:11, 12

Answer: _____

8. How are many young people being ensnared by Satan in association with the opposite gender? Genesis 39:11

Answer: _____

"...Satan is constantly busy to hurry inexperienced youth into a marriage alliance. But the less we glory in the marriages which are now taking place, the better." {2T 252.1}

9. James 4:7 tells us that if we submit to God, Satan will flee. Like Joseph, what else can we do when Satan's temptations seem overwhelmingly strong? Genesis 39:12

Answer: _____

"Few temptations are more dangerous or more fatal to young men than the temptation to sensuality and none if yielded to will prove so decidedly ruinous to soul and body for time and eternity. The welfare of his entire future is suspended upon the decision of a moment. Joseph calmly casts his eyes to heaven for help, slips off his loose outer garment, leaving it in the hand of his tempter and while his eye is lighted with determined resolve in the place of unholy passion, he exclaims, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" The victory is gained; he flees from the enchanter; he is saved" (Letter 3, 1879). 1BC 1097.2

10. **Note:** Joseph also learned from the mistakes of his father, Jacob, and his brother, Reuben. His father had four wives and he witnessed the strife that was in the home because of that. He also saw how his brother Reuben slept with one of his father's wives and Joseph chose not to commit the same sins. This is an example for young men and young women today: we do not have to follow in the same sins of our parents and family members although we may have hereditary tendencies toward evil. Let us now compare and contrast the experience of Joseph with that of Samson.

11. Like Potiphar's wife, what harlot woman seduced Samson? Judges 16:4 Answer: _____

12. How often did she press him to give up the secret of his strength? Judges 16:16 Answer: _____

13. **Note:** Once Samson gave Delilah the secret of his strength, she betrayed him. This account shows us what would have happened to Joseph had he committed fornication with Potiphar's wife; she would have eventually betrayed him. This teaches us that it never pays to sin no matter what the consequences of following God may be (prison for Joseph).

"...We should choose the right because it is right, and leave consequences with God..." {GC 460.2}

14. Was Delilah an Israelite? What is God's counsel regarding marriage & relationships? Judges 16:4, 5; 2 Corinthians 6:14

Answer: _____

15. **Note:** There are examples of men in scripture who fell because of the influence of unconverted women such as David, Solomon, and of course Samson. However, Joseph stands as an example for young people today both married and unmarried. The secret to not continually fall into sin is to resist it the first time through God's power. Once we parlay with the devil and commit sin, our moral compass is weakened and we are more easily swept away by his devices the next time.

"Temptation once resisted will give power to more firmly resist the second time; every new victory gained over self will smooth the way for higher and nobler triumphs. Every victory is a seed sown to eternal life." {5T 120.3}

16. **Note:** Let's now turn to Proverbs 7. Solomon, its author, is counseling young people about the dangers of sensual pleasure. Let us look at the relation between Proverbs 7, Joseph's experience, Samson's experience and our lives today. Read Proverbs 7:4-13.

17. Based on Proverbs 7:13, what did the strange woman do to this young man which Potiphar's wife also did to Joseph? Genesis 39:12

Answer: _____

18. In Proverbs 7:14, was Joseph bribed as an incentive to lie with Potiphar's wife, and with what was he bribed? See quotation.

"But Joseph's faith and integrity were to be tested by fiery trials. His master's wife endeavored to entice the young man to transgress the law of God. Heretofore he had remained untainted by the corruption teeming in that heathen land; but this temptation, so sudden, so strong, so seductive—how should it be met? Joseph knew well what would be the consequence of resistance. **On the one hand were concealment, favor, and rewards; on the other, disgrace, imprisonment, perhaps death.** His whole future life depended upon the decision of the moment. Would principle triumph? Would Joseph still be true to God? With inexpressible anxiety, angels looked upon the scene." {PP 217.2}

19. Based on Proverbs 7:16, where was the linen from which the harlot used to cover her bed? Answer: _____

20. Read Proverbs 7:18-20. It says the goodman of the house was gone on a long journey. What was Potiphar's occupation? Genesis 39:1

Answer: _____

21. Based on Proverbs 7:21, 26, whose account is mirrored there? Judges 16:1, 4, 19 Answer: _____

22. What system is labeled as a harlot in scripture? Revelation 17:1-6 Answer: _____

23. Proverbs 7:5, 21 state that the harlot woman flattered the young man with her words and forced him to yield. According to Daniel 7:25 & Revelation 13:15-17, what has the Papacy done and what will she do again in these last days to oppose God and His saints?

Answer: _____

24. What is Solomon's counsel to us so that we will not be entranced and seduced by the Papacy in these last days? Proverbs 7:1-4; 9:10

Answer: _____

25. Read Genesis 39:9 again. Did Joseph's response show that he feared men more than God? Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28

Answer: _____

26. **Note:** Joseph's refusal to commit sin shows us that he feared God rather than men. Many times in our lives we refuse to sin in the presence of men but when hidden from all human eyes, we sin against God. Like Joseph, we must choose to

overcome every sin because when the Sunday is passed, those who fear men rather than God will choose to accept Sunday for want of food and clothing and fear of verbal and physical persecution.

27. What is the end result for those who go against God's commandments and accept the false teachings of Roman Catholicism, the harlot church? Proverbs 7:27

Answer: _____

28. Not only does the life of Joseph show us how to meet temptation and conquer sin, it is a striking illustration of the life of Christ since Jesus also met temptation and came off as conquerer. No matter what our temptation to sin may be, who can we turn to for help? Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Corinthians 10:13

Answer: _____

29. As we close meditate on the words of hymn 532, Day by Day.

Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear.
He Whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Gives unto each day what He deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;
The protection of His child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"
This the pledge to me He made.

Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word.
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,
Ever to take, as from a father's hand,
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,
Till I reach the promised land.