



Living Hope Ministries

Bible Study

GENESIS 39

We return to the story of Joseph in this chapter

Potiphar buys Joseph from the Ishmaelites. Joseph finds favour with Potiphar and is given more responsibility

Potiphar's wife and tries to entice him into her bed. Joseph resists her advances but she falsely accuses him and he ends up in prison again

Gods favour

Verse 1-6

The favour of God is not to be taken for granted. Joseph was blessed with all that he did. Even the pagan masters saw that God was with him. He was trusted to care for Potiphar's household. It is a privilege when people trust us as God's people. We should be considered reliable in our communities.

Potiphar's wife 's seductive behaviour

Verse 7-12

The wife of Potiphar would have been well provided for. Materially she would have wanted for nothing. However she found Joseph to be incredibly attractive and she was scheming how she might have sex with him. Joseph resisted her advances and he does everything to avoid what she wants of him. Potiphar's wife persists holding onto his cloak but Joseph runs away, leaving his cloak in her hand. He has done the right thing but she will twist this event for her own ends.

Potiphar's wife seeks vengeance.

Verse 13-20

Her actions reveal that she was full of lust but no love at all for Joseph as a person. God's word teaches us that the first requirement in a relationship should be love and unselfishness. This is the foundation for a strong marriage relationship and not sexual intimacy .

Joseph back in prison

Verse 21-23

Joseph's righteous behaviour leads to Potiphar believing his wife rather than Joseph. Joseph is thrown back into prison but he finds favour with the prison warden. He is trusted with responsibility and again is found to be completely reliable. The Bible record makes it clear that Joseph's character is because of his relationship with God.

Points to consider

- How do we find favour with God?
- What would cause us to lose that favour?
- Why was Potiphar's wife so attracted to Joseph?
- What does this incident reveal about man's nature?
- Why did Joseph run away from Potiphar's wife?
- Are we willing to suffer acting righteously?