

Genesis Chapter Thirty Nine Workbook

Key Words:

Harmonize:

Read John 18:28-40—consider the response of Jesus following His arrest.

Dig:

- 1) List the places where you see God's goodness in this chapter.

- 2) List the places where you see Joseph's faithfulness in this chapter.

- 3) What tactics does Potiphar's wife use to tempt—then accuse Joseph?

- 4) List five words to describe Joseph's character from chapter 39.

- 5) What would lead you to conclude Potiphar believed his wife—or—that he disbelieved her?

- 6) How are Joseph's duties described in Potiphar's house? In the prison?

- 7) What was the benefit to Potiphar's household during Joseph's service?

Discuss:

- 1) How do you protect the fidelity of your marriage?
- 2) When is it good to defend yourself, and when should someone remain silent?
- 3) Can we trust our justice system to respond justly? Why or why not?

Point of Prayer:

Pray for those who are imprisoned, throughout the world today, due to their faith. (Consider a subscription to Voice of the Martyrs)

Integrate:

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

Application:

- 1) Share an area of your life where others consider you to be successful.
- 2) Use two words to describe what you are like in any area where you have a management role.
- 3) What is your heart response when you are guilty of sin? How is your heart when you are innocent in a matter, but accused of guilt?
- 4) Have you ever been tempted to speak or act unfaithfully?

Genesis Chapter Thirty Nine

Genesis 39:1-4

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. And the Lord was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge.

- Joseph was a prosperous servant—see Ps 1:1-3, Is 52:13, Is 53:10—'became a successful man'=speaks of achievement rather than status
- Wording in vs 1—takes into account the digression of chapter 38
- Joseph is promoted by Potiphar based on his observed success—master well-pleased with him (Type of Christ: Jn 8:29—I always do the things that please Him) He is given promotion—oversight--responsibility
- Though sold by his brothers—we can see the Lord at work
- Overseer of house—means he is excused of duties in the field
- As a servant (type: goes from being beloved Son in Father's house to lowly role of servant—Phil 2:6-7—Christ who was God did not regard equality to be grasped—but humbled self—became servant—picture of bonds slave—Ex 21:5-6, Heb 10:5-9, Ps 40:6-8)

Genesis 39:5-6

And it came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he owned, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the Lord's blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

- Being entrusted with oversight is accompanied by a time of testing (others have been corrupted in the test—Is 22:15-25, Lu 16:1)
- Description of Joseph sets us up for next scenario
- Joseph—the servant—became blessing to others (Type of Christ: God the Father entrusted all that He had to the Son—Jn 8:28-29)

Genesis 39:7-15

And it came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?" And it came about as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did not listen to her to lie beside her, or be with her. Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside. And she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside. When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and had fled outside, she called to the men of her household, and said to them, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed. And it came about when he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, that he left his garment beside me and fled, and went outside."

- Another situation where a woman is not identified by name—but only in relation to her husband
- Only one thing withheld from Joseph—same position Adam and Eve found themselves in
- He saw this one restriction as a place of loyalty rather than a temptation
- He regarded sexual proposition as wicked/sin
- Day after day—relentless pursuit by Potiphar's wife (consider Prov 5:8, and Lord's Prayer)
- Fleeing—saved Joseph's honor—if not his reputation
- This is a fulfillment of Heb 11:37—suffering temptation fully—Joseph is tempted—yet does not sin. We have just read about the immorality of Judah. There are three distinct times of temptation that are mentioned (7,10,12)—(Type of Christ: Matt 4—Jesus tempted, Heb 4:15, Heb 5:8) We are instructed in II Tim 2:22—flee youthful lusts

Genesis 39:16-18

So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. Then she spoke to him with these words, "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; and it happened as I raised my voice and screamed, that he left his garment beside me and fled outside."

- Speaks of Joseph as 'Hebrew slave'—rather than by name—disdain for ethnicity.
- Whom you brought to us—also levels accusation at husband—charging him to act on her behalf. Spoken as sarcasm.
- She fulfills James 4:1-2—you lust and do not have—so you commit murder
- Joseph is falsely accused (Type of Christ: chief priests/Pharisees sought false witness against Jesus—Matt 16:59-60)

Genesis 39:19-23

Now it came about when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your slave did to me," that his anger burned. So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. And the chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper.

- Joseph—once more confronted with humiliating circumstances—continues to develop in honor and integrity
- Probably anticipated death due to accusation. Perhaps there was doubt mingled with the charges on Potiphar's part—since Joseph regains influence in jail.
- God continues to protect Joseph and preserve him in the midst of trials
- Prison=sohar=description of a fortress type structure
- This particular facility is for the King's prisoners
- Ps 105:18—describes this season for Joseph
- Joseph attempts no defense (Type of Christ: Fulfills Is 53:7)
- Joseph cast into prison (Type of Christ: Jesus arrested—Lu 22:54, 23:13-16)
- Joseph—the innocent—suffered- (Type of Christ: Matt 26:67, 27:28-30, Jn 19:18, Ps 105:17-18, Acts 7:9-10)
- Joseph won respect of jailer (Type of Christ: roman centurion Lu 23:47)
- Joseph was numbered with transgressors (Type of Christ: Jn 19:18)