

## Dealing with Temptation

### Genesis 39:1-20

Egyptian society not so different from our own.

“Egyptian females, even though married, were distinguished for licentiousness and immorality, and were not condemned to live in seclusion, but were allowed freely to mix in promiscuous society.”

Gallup poll in the 80's that there was little difference in ethical behavior between church goers and those who aren't; the levels of lying, cheating, and stealing are remarkably the same.”

Joseph could have taken the worldly view & “rationalized” it

“I'm a slave, it's my duty to obey my master's wife.”

“If I don't do what she says, I'll offend her.”

“There may be some advantages to doing what she says.”

“I'm away from my family, my friends and my culture. Who's to know?”

### Just Say NO!

**Genesis 39:8** - “he refused”

“Just say ‘No’” campaign actually did some good in reducing drug use.

**Proverbs 1:10** *My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.*

Recognize that YOU have the power to refrain from sin

**Ephesians 5:6-11** *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.*

**Romans 6:12-14** *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*

**Genesis 4:7** *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”*

### Sin Is Against Others and Ultimately Against GOD!

**Genesis 39:9** “How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

Certainly it would have been against Potiphar as well.

Most sin affects others as well as ourselves.

Israelite children suffered consequences of parents' sin

**Numbers 14:33** *And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.*

**Lamentations 5:7** *Our fathers sinned, and are no more; and we bear their iniquities.*

How many today suffer because of their parents' sin?

Divorce, Drugs/Alcohol, Sexual immorality, Crime, etc

Joseph recognized he was ultimately responsible to God.

Since all sin is a transgression of law

**1John 3:4** *Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness.*

**Psalms 51:1-4** *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.*

Man's biggest problem is recognizing it!

Man calls sin an accident; God calls it an abomination.

Man calls sin a blunder; God calls it blindness.

Man calls sin a chance; God call it a choice.

Man calls sin an error; God calls it enmity.

Man calls sin fascination; God calls it fatality.

Man calls sin infirmity; God calls it iniquity.

Man calls sin luxury; God calls it lawlessness.  
Man calls sin a trifle; God calls it tragedy.  
Man calls sin a mistake; God calls it madness.  
Man calls sin a weakness; God calls it willfulness.

### **Do Not Listen To The World!**

**Genesis 39:10** *"...he would not listen to her, ... or to be with her."*

Here we see Joseph's strength & determination  
Even during daily badgering he just "tuned her out."  
Even avoided being with her.

**Genesis 39:10** *And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.*

There's hardly a day goes by w/o some enticement to sin.

Friends, Songs, TV, Movies, Co-workers daily call us

Tho there are times when we must associate with worldly people, we've got to stick to our spiritual guns!

**Hebrews 11:25** *choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.*

**1Corinthians 10:13** *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

Endure - Persist, persevere, bear up

Mike Ditka: "You never really lose until you quit trying."

Marie Curie: "Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained."

### **Run Away!**

**Genesis 39:12** *"he ... fled and got out of the house."*

"Sin will take you further than you want to go, Keep you longer than you want to stay, Cost you more than you want to pay."

Sometimes the only thing left to do is RUN AWAY!

**1Corinthians 6:18-20** *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

**1Timothy 6:10-12** *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

**2Timothy 2:20-22** *Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.*

If you're running FROM sin and TO God, He'll help you make it.

**Proverbs 28:13** *Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

### **Remember These Four Steps When Dealing with Temptation**

Say No!

Realize sin is ultimately against God!

Don't listen to the world!

If you have to, just leave!

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