



Joseph - From Pit to Prison to Palace

Genesis 39:1-20 - Running from Sin

Verses 1-6

- Verse 2 - The Lord was with Joseph – see also verses 3, 21 and 23.
- Vs 3-4 – His Master Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph and gave him the highest appointment as overseer of his household.
- Vs 5-6 - God's blessing overflows from Joseph to bless those around him.

" As in the relationship between Jacob and Laban where Laban recognized that the Lord's favour was with Jacob (30:27), Potiphar sees the same in Joseph and trusts him with responsibility. As a result, the blessing side of the covenant continues to be realized on a small scale as Potiphar and his house are blessed through Joseph (39:5-6).."

John Walton, *The NIV Application Commentary – Genesis*, Zondervan, 2001, page 706.

Verses 6b-18

- Verse 6-10. TWO things that Joseph does to keep from sinning.
- 1) He states his decision with 3 reasons (vs 8-9):
 - a) He cannot betray his master's trust.
 - b) She belongs to her husband.
 - c) He will not sin against God.
- 2) Joseph refuses to listen to her entreaties and physically avoids being with Potiphar's wife.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20: Flee Sexual Temptation and Run to Christ

Verses 19-20

- Verse 19 – Potiphar burns with anger. Joseph has no chance to defend himself.
- Verse 20 – He is put in the King's prison. But there is more twists and turns in the story to come.

"It appears that the prison is on Potiphar's premises, for 40:3 identifies it as "in the house of the captain of the guard," using the same title previously given to Potiphar (39:1). The end result of this incarceration is that it puts Joseph in a place where he will become acquainted with members of Pharaoh's court. It also offers another opportunity for the text to draw attention to the favor that Joseph enjoys with everyone he encounters despite his hardships."

John Walton, *The NIV Application Commentary – Genesis*, Zondervan, 2001, page 707.

Application

- Like Joseph, we don't know how our today or tomorrow will turn out. But can we trust our lives and ways into God's hand?
- We must endure trials so that God, who is faithful, can bring us through (see Hebrews 10:32-36).