

Remnant Life Church

11.06.22

Joseph

Pt 5

A Different Kind of Confrontation (conclusion)

Gen 39:1-23

Part 1 – The forced confrontation that Joseph had to endure with his brothers due to his father's favoritism

Part 2 – Joseph shares two dreams with his brothers and fathers that would have been smarter to keep to himself

Part 3 – The brother's revenge as they sell their brother to the Midianite and Ishmaelite traders

Part 4a – Joseph must deal with his master's wife who is tempting him to come to bed with her

Last week we noted that God's favor is on Joseph, and He blesses everything he does

- Then we also see how Joseph is a man of unwavering integrity and righteousness
 - He was legally bound to obey Potiphar's wife, but he did not because the laws of God supersede the laws of man
 - And Joseph was unwavering as she pursued him
 - No matter how many times she came at him his answer was always the same
 - And he even did his best to stay away from her – showing wisdom
 - Why put yourself into a scenario where you know temptation to do wrong will be coming at you?
 - satan is not all-powerful or all-knowing but he is aware of your weaknesses
 - Do not give him any help by being places you should not be

Remember when we said that the life of Joseph was a foreshadowing of the life of Christ?

- Here, in the way Joseph responds to this woman, is another demonstration of that fact
 - Joseph did not live a sinless life like Jesus
 - He no doubt as a boy and young man used the privilege his father had given him – selfish, manipulative, etc...
 - But Joseph does demonstrate how to handle temptation like Jesus would in the desert and His dealings with the Pharisees and Sadducees.
 - In those examples you can learn how to have victory over satan when he sends temptation your way
 - It is not your strength, but as a Christian, you are fighting the enemy with the power of the HS and the redemptive shed blood of Jesus Christ

Read - Genesis 39:1-23

Three things have we seen regarding Joseph's encounter with Potiphar's wife?

- The first was that he obeyed the law of God over the law of man
- Second, he could not be worn down but stood firm in his convictions even after she had made multiple attempts

The third thing is that he could have given in, and nobody would have known

- **Gen 39:11** – *One day he went into the house to attend to his duties and none of the household servants was inside.*
- Does anybody think this was a coincidence?
 - I certainly don't – you can be sure that this had been carefully planned and not for the first time
 - But Joseph stood his ground with integrity
 - Because the definition of integrity is not doing the right thing in a crowd of people
 - It is doing the right thing when you are all alone or no one else is around
 - Joseph would not give in even though he could have “gotten away with it”
 - Because he already knew that his sin would be known to God
 - **Gen 39:9b** - *...How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?*
 - To Joseph, obeying the law of God AND of man, was what made him a man that could be trusted

The attempted seduction of Joseph in chapter 39 shows him in a completely positive light and in every way innocent

- He did not lead her on
 - He does not allow himself to enjoy this flirtatious attention
 - That is the first place these things begin to take shape
 - You notice that the best looking person at work is talking more to you than anybody else...
 - Joseph will not play that game, he avoids her completely
- Once again, Joseph is being identified by his garment.
 - We had said earlier that in biblical times you were many times known by the clothes you wore – they said something about you
 - Back in chapter 37 we saw that Joseph was identified by the coat his father had given him
 - Here once again, Joseph is identified by what he is wearing
 - **Gen 39:12-16** - *She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. “Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.” She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.*
 - His coat got him in trouble with his brothers, and it is happening here again with Potiphar
 - Notice that in both cases, Joseph was innocent of any wrongdoing
 - Potiphar's wife, however, does not help her cause in her effort to portray the hapless, helpless innocent victim

- Notice what she does twice – she tries to pin the blame on Potiphar
 - First to the house slaves
 - 39:14 – ...*she called to her household servants. Look, she said to them, this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us!*
 - Then to Potiphar himself
 - 39:17...*that Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.*
 - She then added later – *This is how **your** slave treated me!* (39:19)
- Is it any wonder Potiphar reacts the way that he does?

This entire episode between Joseph and Potiphar's wife presents us with an important lesson and truth

- First, the more you live your life for God, doing what is right, always wanting to please God, and being honorable, your life will become an example to others.
 - This type of living, as we have seen with Joseph, engenders trust and it often results in opportunities of the blessing of serving others
 - But this also means you are a richer target for the enemy
- If you think that the more God blesses and promotes you the less you will have to deal with temptations, you need to think again
 - The enemy wants every Christian he can get to give into temptation, embrace sin, and desire self over God
 - But he is especially interested in those who serve God in public, are well known, or are an impact within their sphere of influence
 - It was a big day in satan's office when in 1980 Jim Bakker's affair with Jessica Hahn was made public and it became known that he was swindling millions of dollars from those who had financially supported the *PTL* ministry
 - It was another good day for him when in 1988 Jimmy Swaggert was caught in the company of a prostitute
 - There was a lot of backslapping in hell when Todd Bentley, the featured evangelist of the Lakeland Revival in 2008, began an affair with a co-worker and then divorced his wife in order to marry her.
- These are all horrible events and they deeply hurt many people, but no ministry, no minister is immune or isolated from these things
 - Neither is any Christian
 - It is why we must pray for one another
 - It is why Katerina and I value your prayers so much
 - But these things will continue to happen as long as men and women in ministry take their eyes off of God and put them on themselves
 - It is why, regarding churches and parachurch organizations, authors and speakers, you must be very careful who you read, who you watch, and who you allow to speak into your life

- Fame, financial success, and large crowds do not guarantee that a minister or ministry are truly following God, preaching His word, or serving with integrity
 - If they speak more about themselves, their accomplishments or their latest book or next speaking engagement more than they do about your need for God and the need to surrender your life to Jesus Christ, that is someone you need to avoid
 - If they talk very little about what it means to depend on God, and more on how to succeed through your own efforts, you're just listening to a motivational speaker, not a minister of the Lord
 - If they speak about how God wants every Christian to be happy, successful, and rich and those are the signs of His love and presence in your life, that is a false teaching that takes your eyes off of God and puts them on yourself
 - **John 15:5** - *I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*
 - **John 16:32-33** - *A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*
 - Being a Christian does not mean you will always be happy, wealthy, in perfect health, or at peace.
 - And those that say you should be as a Christian either are flat out lying or they do not know the Word of God and have no business speaking like they do
 - The time of false preachers is going to be on the increase
 - That is why YOU must know the truth of God's word so you can then recognize the lies
- It all begins with pride which leads to compromise
 - And pride is the downfall of every single ministry, every single preacher, every single revival, and every single move of God
 - It is also the primary reason people experience condemnation, judgment, and hurt instead of the love of God poured out for everyone
 - **Prov 11:2** - *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
 - **16:18** - *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

- 29:23 - *Pride brings a person low, but the lowly in spirit gain honor.*

Joseph could have compromised, could have given in, could have justified and made excuses for his behavior

- But he did not!
- He told Potiphar's wife that he could not betray his master and could not sin against his God!

Finally, I want us to look at how Potiphar responds to the accusations of his wife

- 39:19-20 - *When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.*
- He burned with anger!
 - Well of course he did!
 - His wife just told him that his slave had accosted her!
 - He is furious at him!!!!
 - Not so fast
 - That of course would be the natural assumption of Potiphar's reaction
 - But I don't think that is who Potiphar is angry at
 - He is burning with anger towards his wife!
 - Where does it say that?
 - Nowhere, but you must read the Scriptures as more than just words on a page
 - This is where context and taking into account the entirety of the story must be integrated in order to fully understand what is going on

Consider what Potiphar is presented with when he hears the account

- First, his wife tells the story not once but twice with slander against Potiphar's own motives
 - IOW she is saying this is your fault!
- Second, Joseph has proven nothing but trustworthy and exemplary in all the time he has been there
- Third, Potiphar is now going to lose the services of his most competent and capable slave – the one who makes everything run so well in his house
- Fourth, he certainly knows his wife's character, or lack of it
 - Remember how she cleared the house to make sure they were alone?
 - I am convinced that the only fury and indignation she was experiencing was because she had been rejected by Joseph
 - Undoubtedly for the very first time!

But there is one more fact of this account that speaks more to Potiphar's anger against his wife rather than Joseph more than any other...

- What do you think the penalty was for virtually any offence an Egyptian slave committed?
 - And it did not have to be something major
 - At the master's whim it was instantaneous death!

- But notice what Potiphar does, or rather what he does not do
 - Joseph is not executed, instead he is put into prison
 - And not even the general prisoner population which would have likely been the same as a death penalty
 - *Gen 39:20 – Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.*
 - That would be the same as a minimum-security prison today (white-collar criminals)

But it gets even more clear when you continue to follow the story...

- *Gen 40:1-3 - Some time later, the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was angry with his two officials, the chief cupbearer and the chief baker, and put them in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, in the same prison where Joseph was confined.*
 - Who is the captain of the guard?
 - Potiphar
 - Joseph was being held in his master’s house!
- And I believe this accomplished three important things for Potiphar
 - He could keep an eye of Joseph and make sure he was safe
 - He could consult Joseph regarding his household affairs if not even have him out from time to time
 - And he could keep his wife away from him so there would be no more false accusations!
- IOW, the action Potiphar took on Joseph was the absolute minimum that would have been required while still maintaining his family and personal honor!

As we draw this segment of the story to a close, I want you to take two things with you that are true about our great and awesome God in each of our lives today.

1. He puts all things in place
 - a. Joseph’s incarceration, no matter how unjustified, was to put him in contact with and acquainted with the two members of Pharaoh’s court
 - b. And it would be his time with the cupbearer that would eventually put him in front of Pharaoh to interpret the two dreams
2. God’s favor will follow those who obey him
 - a. Once again, that does not mean that your life will be free of trials and hardships
 - b. Joseph’s certainly was not
 - c. But everywhere he went, Joseph had the favor of the Lord to accomplish what needed to be done