

The Example of **JOSEPH**

Genesis 39
Psalm 105:1-23
Philippians 2:5-11



26 February 2023

Together in 2023

- "Imitate me, as I imitate Christ"
- Catechism and Meditation (Temptation)
- Prayer for Revival

God Unfolds His Eternal Purpose (the Glorious Gospel) in Time

- MEDITATE: The Gospel is God's glorious plan for His people.
 - ★ **The Gospel is all about God!**
- **Planned** in eternity. (Acts 15:18)
- **Unfolded** in HISTORY - from Creation to the New Jerusalem!
 - ✗ The Gospel is not *only* the life, death, burial, or resurrection of Jesus.
 - ✓ History is about what God is doing with His creation to fulfill His plan!
- God planned that His eternal purpose would be (present tense) **accomplished** through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:8-11)
- In the Old Testament, God unfolds His eternal plan in and through Israel.
- God shows who He is and His plans through people, pictures, and types.
 - Bible Study: Christ in the Old Testament - Luke 24:44; John 5:39
- **Isaiah 55:8-9**

Reviewing Essential Terms in Understanding the Gospel

- CREATOR/LORD
- SOVEREIGNTY
- ELECTION
- PROVIDENCE
- COVENANT

Joseph: A Picture of Christ

- See handout: Joseph: A Picture of Christ
- MEDITATE: Genesis 50:20 with Psalm 105:16-22
- God moved Moses to write down Joseph's life story for our learning. (Romans 15:4) Not to learn from Joseph makes us fools.

Joseph: The Man

(1) His Family

- His Father: Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham
- His Mother: Rachel (Jacob's favorite wife)
- His brothers and sister (Genesis 29-35)
- His wife: Asenath (Genesis 41:45)
- His sons: Manasseh (Genesis 41:50-51), Ephraim (41:52)

(2) His Occupations

- Shepherd (Genesis 37:1-10)
- Slave (Genesis 37:11-36; 39:1-6)
- Prisoner (Genesis 39:7-40:23)
- Second-in-command of Egypt (Genesis 41:1-50:26)

At Seventeen: Responsibility

- His dreams (Genesis 37:5-11)
- The father sends out his favored son, "Go and check on my sons and my flocks." (37:12-17)
 - Consider the responsibility Jacob gave Joseph at 17 years!
 - At Shechem (distance >100km) Joseph finds a man who tells him that his brothers moved on to Dothan (distance 20km)
 - Quit or press forward? At the age of 17 he decides to continue to meet his father's expectation - to DO his father's will!

At Seventeen: Sold into Slavery (Genesis 37:18-36)

- Sold to strangers (Ishmaelites/Midianites) for 20 shekels.
- Sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, in Egypt. (v. 36; 39:1)
- ALL AT THE AGE OF 17!

At Seventeen to ~Twenty-Eight: Responsibility (Genesis 39:2-6)

- Despite his circumstances Joseph served at his BEST. (Colossians 3:17, 23)
- He was successful. (vv. 2-3)
 - See Psalm 1:1-3; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Joshua 1:7-8; 2 Chronicles 31:20-21
- Others could **see** his integrity and character and **trusted** him.
- The LORD was with Joseph. (v. 2)
- The master, Potiphar, **saw** that the LORD was with Joseph. (Matt 5:16)
- The master gave him more responsibility. (Matthew 25:21, 23)
 - It took eleven years for this progression to be realized:
 - ① God prospered Joseph as a simple slave.
 - ② Joseph moved to Potiphar's house.
 - ③ Potiphar notices that God is with Joseph.
 - ④ Potiphar promoted Joseph to his number one position.
 - ⑤ Potiphar's home and fields prospered at the hand of Joseph.
 - ⑥ Potiphar gave Joseph full control and responsibility.

- Joseph is a good example of a believer who trusts God and makes the best of his/her difficult circumstances.
- Joseph's hard labor resulted in others being blessed. It seemed the more he worked the more others were blessed. God wants us to be a blessing to others. (Genesis 12:1-3; Proverbs 22:29)

At Seventeen to ~Twenty-Eight: True Character (Genesis 39:7-11)

- God promises that there is no temptation too great for us. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- But temptations can and many times be very hard and great. Joseph's temptation is a good example. Christ's example: Matthew 4:1-11
 - ① It was a temptation of the **natural** appetite. Though it was a natural (God-given) appetite it was not right in this case.
 - ② It happened when he was away from home. Business trips, university, vacations, etc.
 - ③ It was made by someone of importance. To please the person would secure his job. To displease her would put his job in jeopardy.
 - ④ It came after an important promotion. Temptation normally follows victory. A way of God reminding us that the power is in HIM not us.
 - ⑤ It came repeatedly.
 - ⑥ It came at the perfect time – no one would know!
- Joseph's fight against temptation:
 - ① (v. 9) "My master trusts me and I will not betray that trust."
 - ★ SIN HURTS OTHERS.
 - ② (v. 9) "**How can I sin against God?**"
 - **All sin is sin against God.** (Psalm 51:4)
 - His relationship with God was *central* to his dealings.
 - Even though this God had ~~allowed~~ sent him to be sold by his brothers and enslaved in Egypt. (Psalm 105:17; Lamentations 3:37-38; Job 1:20-22)
 - ③ (v. 9) He called sin sin! He called sin **great wickedness!**
 - ④ (v. 12) He ran away! (**2 Timothy 2:22 contrast with Psalm 1:1-3**)
- **NOTE:** Although Joseph acted in accordance to the will of God he was falsely accused. Consider Christ.

At ~Twenty-Eight: Responsibility (Genesis 39:20-21; 40:1-22)

- Six times in chapter 39 we are told of Joseph's prosperity. (vv. 2, 3, 5, 20, 21, 23)
- Joseph received injustice from the one who he had helped prosper!
 - ★ **God receives injustice from us - the ones whom He blesses!**
- Did Joseph receive injustice from God? (See Colossians 3:23-25; Romans 9:19-20)

Romans 15:4: Have We Learned?

- ❶ Adult responsibility and accountability begin much earlier than our culture has determined. God holds young men (13 years and older) accountable as adults. **Parents and children take note!!**
- ❷ God has a plan for each of us. One must decide to live their life for GOD and not for self and others. (Psalm 139:16; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20)
 - Christ came to do the Father's will (John 6:38-40) even unto death. (Philippians 2:5-8)
 - Whatever we do we are to do for the glory of God! (1 Cor 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23)
 - Willfully choose to live God's ways/plan because in the end God's will will be done. (Job 42:2; 23:13; Ecccl 3:14; Isaiah 14:27; Proverbs 19:21)
- ❸ We are to be STEADFAST, IMMOVABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, KNOWING THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN IN THE LORD – no matter the circumstances! (1 Corinthians 15:58)
- ❹ We should not expect more responsibility when we cannot be trusted even with little things. (Matthew 25:14ff)
- ❺ Trust in the LORD and NOT men! (**Proverbs 3:5-7**; Psalm 118:8-9; Jeremiah 17:5-7; Micah 7:5-7)
- ❻ Expect injustice from the world. BUT remember God's sovereignty and providence. Remember Paul in prison. (1 Peter 4:12, 19; John 15:18-20; Acts 14:22)
- ❼ Run away from ALL SIN. **Watch and pray** so that you do not enter into temptation. (Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 10:13)
- ❽ Everything lays naked before God and it is to Him we must give an account. (Hebrews 4:13; Psalm 139:1-16)
- ❾ When you are disappointed in men, let that disappointment turn you to the love and faithfulness of God. (2 Timothy 2:13; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 146:3-6; Jeremiah 17:5, 7; Psalm 118:8; 56:3; 115:11)
- ❿ **WAIT FOR GOD.** Isaiah 40:30-31; 25:9; **30:18**; Psalm 25:5, 21; 27:14; 37:34; Lamentations 3:25-26; Romans 8:25) All things are appointed by God.
- ★ **FINAL LESSON:** Our lives belong to God. Surrender and live! Rebel and die!