

CONQUERING TEMPTATION

Dear Friend:

Have you been tempted lately? I Peter 5:8 says that Satan roams about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour who he may. Obviously, this is a warning that he is on the hunt tempting as many people as often as he can. In Genesis 39 Joseph, the son of Jacob and the great grandson of Abraham was in a hard to win temptation situation. He was the house manager and chief security officer for Potipher of Egypt. Potiphar's job was captain of the Royal Guard, which meant he was head of the Egyptian Secret Service. Joseph was so trusted, so physically in shape, and so wise that Potipher made Joseph his personal bodyguard.

One of Joseph's perks was that he got to work in Potipher's mansion. Potipher's wife had longing eyes for Joseph, which probably didn't go unnoticed by Joseph. One day Mrs. Potipher decides she's looked long enough, and she wants to play, so she makes a play for Joseph. Joseph is in an all-out temptation situation. If you know the story you remember Joseph had no plans to play, no appetite for adultery, no care for an affair. Oh...he noticed Mrs. Potipher could be in the Mrs. Egypt pageant and probably win, but Joseph also noticed that if he said "yes" to Mrs. Potipher he was at minimum going to jail for a long time. Mrs. Potipher makes the move for Joseph, he turns her down, but he ends up going to jail anyway (more about that in a minute).

What steps did Joseph take to resist temptation? First step: Joseph's mind was made up before Mrs. Potipher came calling. Whether it was Mrs. Potipher or eventually another woman Joseph had firm convictions that he would not commit adultery. Second step: Joseph's motives were to look-up to God for help. Instead of looking (staring) straight at temptation (Mrs. Potipher) he chose loyalty over lust. Loyalty to Potipher and loyalty to God. He told Mrs. Potipher: "My Master/your husband trusts me and I won't violate his trust. Besides, if he doesn't see me commit adultery God will, and I won't sin". Third step: Joseph ran! In a last-ditch effort to avoid sin he "high tailed it out of there". In more than one place in the Bible it says to flee temptation. Joseph did an 800-meter sprint AWAY from Mrs. Potipher. However, Joseph still ends up going to jail. Mrs. Potipher lied to her husband, said Joseph "came after her", she resisted, now he must go to jail. God ends up rescuing Joseph and he eventually becomes Egypt's Prime Minister. Ahh...Romans

8:28 comes true 1,400 years before Paul penned the Book of Romans. May God help you conquer temptation in the same manner of Joseph!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer: Gabe Smith (Cancer. His father Rev. Les Smith just had a kidney transplant), Eric Alden family (death of granddaughter), Helen Smith (shut-in of the month)