



## Lesson 30

# Joseph's Imprisonment

### Story Elements

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>TEXT:</b> Gen. 39:1-23</li><li>• <b>Setting:</b> circa 1730 B.C. in Egypt.</li><li>• <b>Main Characters:</b> God, Joseph, Potiphar, and Potiphar's wife</li><li>• <b>Plot:</b> Joseph climbs the ranks as a slave in Potiphar's house, but when he is falsely,</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>accused his meteoric rise is halted by imprisonment.</li><li>• <b>Key word(s):</b> "the LORD was _____ Joseph" (vv 2, 3, 21, 23)</li><li>• <b>Climax:</b> <i>Genesis 39:16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.</i></li></ul> |
|---|--|

### Well Favored

- 1) (v 1) After being sold into slavery by his brothers, Joseph ended up in the house of a high-ranking Egyptian official named Potiphar.
  - a) (vv 2-3) But God was with Joseph and blessed him – even during his enslavement. Joseph became "\_\_\_\_\_,", and his success at work caught the attention of his master.
  - b) (vv 4-5) As Joseph grew in rank, and as he took on more responsibility, "the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for \_\_\_\_\_ sake."
  - c) (vv 6-7) Joseph's skill as an estate manager was so excellent that Potiphar gave Joseph complete trust with every conceivable duty and detail.

### Wickedly Tempted

- 2) (vv 7-9) Potiphar's wife "cast her \_\_\_\_\_ upon Joseph" and she tried to lure him into sin day by day (cf. v 10). But Joseph fought off her sinful advances and by God's grace overcame:
  - a) By appealing to \_\_\_\_\_ motives: he could not betray the confidence of his master who had trusted him completely.
  - b) By admitting the \_\_\_\_\_ root: he called the temptation "*great wickedness.*"
  - c) By acknowledging divine \_\_\_\_\_: the sin would not just be against himself or his master, but especially his God. (cf. *Psa. 51:4*)
- 3) (vv 11-12) Potiphar's wife seized a moment of privacy to latch onto Joseph and insist he sin with her, but Joseph \_\_\_\_\_ and ran out of the house, leaving his garment behind. (1 Cor. 6:18) Joseph's example is worthy of our emulation. Notice: *Proverbs 4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, And go not in the way of evil men. 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, Turn from it, and pass away.*
- 4) (vv 13-14) The temptress's lust was only surpassed by her \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) when she saw she could not prevail against Joseph's integrity, she falsely accused him of assaulting her.
  - b) (vv 15-19) Using Joseph's garment as fake evidence, she accused Joseph before all the servants of the house and then to her husband whose "\_\_\_\_\_ was kindled."

### Wrongfully Imprisoned

- 5) (v 20) Potiphar put Joseph in the king's dungeon, which was likely the \_\_\_\_\_ of them all.

- 6) (vv 21-23) But even in prison God was with Joseph, and he once again found favor and blessing. Matthew Henry notes: “Wisdom and virtue will shine in the narrowest spheres. A good man will do good wherever he is, and will be a \_\_\_\_\_ even in bonds and banishment; for the Spirit of the Lord is not bound nor banished, witness St. Paul, Phil 1:12, 13”<sup>1</sup>

*Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;*

---

## Application

- 7) How quickly Potiphar’s wife changed in her demeanor toward Joseph! Her romantic pleading swiftly became malicious accusations. Here we see the distinction between true love and sinful lust: “sinful love...is easily changed into sinful \_\_\_\_\_.”<sup>2</sup>
- 8) Many people believe that the LORD’s favor guarantees immunity from negative experiences. Joseph’s story shows how false this idea is. The LORD was with Joseph when he was sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned for a crime he did not commit. God’s favor does not save us from trouble but \_\_\_\_\_ us through it.
- 9) Though Joseph was stolen away from his father, his God was always with him – even in his darkest moments. Joseph’s life modeled Hebrews 13:5 thousands of years before it was written

*Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor \_\_\_\_\_ thee.*

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

**Answer Key:** Key word(s): “with” • 1) a) prosperous; b) Joseph’s • 2) eyes; a) ethical; b) sinful; c) holiness • 3) fled • 4) pride; b) wrath • 5) severest • 6) blessing • 7) hatred • 8) strengthens • *Heb. 13:5 forsake*

**How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study:** (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.

<sup>1</sup> Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume*. Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994. Print.  
<sup>2</sup> Ibid.