

JOSEPH FACES TEMPTATION

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Someone once said, "Lead me not into temptation, I can find it myself."

There is not a person who has ever lived, including Jesus Christ Himself, who has not battled with temptation. And there is not a person who has ever walked the face of the earth, other than Jesus Christ, who has not yielded to temptation, at one time or another, in one form or another. Temptation has been around since the Garden of Eden and it will continue to be around until time is no more.

Temptation wears many different faces. There is material temptation, which is a lust for things. A bigger house, a newer car, an old antique desk or a hundred other things. There is personal temptation, such as lust for fame or power or control over others. There is sensual temptation, the lust for another person, someone's body, mind and spirit.

I'm talking about a desire to have and to enjoy what doesn't rightfully belong to you.

It was this type of temptation that reared up its ugly head in our story about Joseph today.

Gen 39:7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.

There was nothing subtle about Mrs. Potiphar. She was very direct, very plain in stating what she wanted and what her intentions were. The book of Proverbs is filled with Scripture that describe this kind of woman.

But notice Joseph response. Gen 39:8-9 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back anything from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

Joseph refused. Joseph said no. He refused to sin against his master and against his God. But Mrs. Potiphar didn't give up and then the Bible says that Joseph fled. He ran away.

Your spirit may be strong but your flesh is weak. That's why the Bible tells us not to put any confidence in the flesh. We are told to flee fornication. We are told to flee youthful lust. We are told not to give place to the devil.

Temptation is not something to be reasoned with. You don't stand in the face of temptation and quote Scripture. We are told to flee, to run, and to get as far away from the tempter as possible.

Joseph gives us a good example of what to do whenever temptation shows up in our life.