

Genesis 39:1-23 **Resisting Temptation**

Introduction:

When our Lord Jesus was tempted by the devil Jesus in His humanity was at His most vulnerable state since he had been fasting for forty days and forty nights. He was hungry, tired and weak. But it was the Holy Spirit that led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. It was a test Jesus must pass because the first Adam failed miserably when he was tempted by the devil. The very first temptation by Satan was to attack his hunger pains. The devil knew that Jesus also was the Son of God who could at His will make bread out of cold lifeless stones; but Jesus did not fall for it, He responded from the Old Testament Scriptures, “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Jesus conquered temptation by speaking the eternal word of God which defeated the tempter. (Matt. 4:1-4)

I. Joseph Prospered by the Lord

A. Seven times reiterated, the Lord was with Joseph (v. 2, 3, 5, 21,28)

1. The reason for Joseph’s success – Prov. 10:22
2. Favored by Potiphar

B. A Type of Christ – Luke 2:52

1. The full measure of God’s blessing took eleven years – Gen. 41:4
2. God’s favor upon Joseph preceded human favor.

II. Joseph’s Faithful Service

A. What exactly is faithful service? Answer: It is consistently following the Lord in His church. Christ established His church:

1. By establishing her with His Word – Matt. 11:28-29
2. By establishing her with the Sacraments – (Baptism and Lord’s Supper)

B. The blessing of hard work –v.11 Turn To: Eccl. 2:4-11

1. Workers pleasing your master – Eph. 6:5-8; Col.3:22-25
2. Masters pleasing your workers

C. The tables turn:

1. Joseph made a critical choice by making the right decision
2. Joseph suffered persecution for resisting evil – II Tim. 3:12; I Pet. 4:12-14

III. Joseph Facing Temptation

A. When Temptation Comes:

1. Temptation is common to all men – I Cor. 10:13; Prov. 6:24-28
2. Temptation comes when we are away from home.
3. Temptation when we receive a great promotion (King David, King Jesus)

B. Deal with Temptation immediately

1. Flee and run for your life! – I Cor. 6:18
2. It’s not impossible to resist – Jam. 4:7,8