

Seek God's Favor

May 6, 2017

Scripture Reading: Gen. 39:1-6

There are some tough questions we always struggle to answer!

Why is it that bad things happen to righteous people?

How do we exercise self-control and flee from youthful lust?

How do we walk in the Spirit always and find God's favor?

If you read Genesis 39 carefully, we may be able to get some answers.

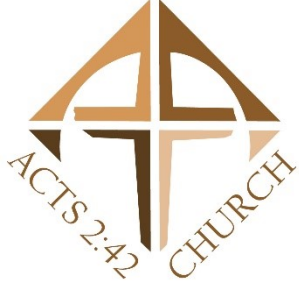
Joseph was bought by Potiphar, captain of the bodyguard. In other words, he was like the chief of security for the White House!

Gen. 39:1,2. 1Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelite, who had taken him down there. 2The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian.

Joseph always stood out among the crowd, in spite of his status as a slave, and he was a successful man! How is that possible? Because the Lord was with Him. When the Lord's hand is upon you, all the strangers start liking you and respecting you. The only people who may not care may be our own family members! There is something about God's anointing! Everyone starts liking us, and everything moves smoothly and we could easily set our agenda and accomplish. Joseph was so successful, he was taken into the house of Potiphar.

Gen. 39:3-6. 3Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4So Joseph found favor in his sight and became his personal servant; and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he owned he put in his charge. 5It came about that from the time he made him overseer in his house and over all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house on account of Joseph; thus the LORD'S blessing was upon all that he owned, in the house and in the field. 6So he left everything he owned in Joseph's charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.

Now the master saw with his own eyes that the Lord was with Him. People should see Christ in us. We must be a blessing where ever we go and whomever we meet! People do love Jesus in us, which always bring out unconditional love, and not demanding love! Because of Joseph, Potiphar's house was blessed, his job was blessed, and his field was blessed! This is the kind of anointing we want. Because of us, our whole department at work should turn out blessed, our homes should be blessed. Because of Joseph like people in the church, people in their job prosper, their homes are blessed, there is a serene joy in the fellowship, and they are free from sickness! Just one Joseph is enough to bring mighty blessing to all



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people in the church. The Blessing of God is like dew or sunshine. When you are in your neighborhood, God blesses that neighborhood and bring peace and serenity to your neighborhood.

When we become like Joseph, our bosses leave everything on us and they go to the golf course. Take such situation as honor, and make it even easier for them. Let them hand over all the responsibility to you! You deliver such tasks with a joyful heart!

It is important that we understand the timeline of Joseph. He was sold as a slave to Potiphar when he was a seventeen-year-old boy. He was with Potiphar 11 years before he was taken to prison. He was 30 years before he came to Pharaoh. So he spent two years in prison.

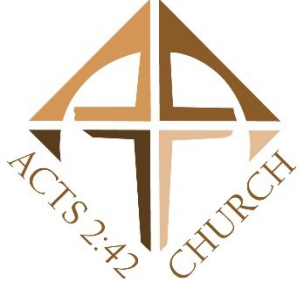
We expect God's blessing to flow very quickly, but usually, it happens very slowly and systematically. We become restless in our situation if we do not receive certain blessing very quick. Be patient to receive God's blessings.

Gen. 39: 7-8 Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. 7It came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

Joseph was not only handsome in his physical appearance, but beautiful inside also. **For God, somebody is handsome if their inside is beautiful.** Everyone looked at the outside physique when it came to manhood. But God picked a David out of all his brothers because his inside was contrite and broken and humble! The master's wife looked on the outside only, and wanted Joseph. There is no limit to desire and passion. We can never satisfy our lusts. It will constantly burn and try to consume us. Potiphar's wife had everything, including a strong husband, who was the captain of the guard. Yet the wife wanted someone else, and that too a helpless slave!

Listen to what Joseph had to say!

Gen. 39: 8-10 8But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, and he has put all that he owns in my charge. 9"There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" 10As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her.



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Joseph did not consider the fruit of pleasure that was dangling right in front of his eyes. He remembered the goodness of his master. The master had withheld nothing from Joseph other than his wife. There was no one greater in that house than Joseph. Even his wife had to listen to Joseph. So much power was given! How then could he sin against his master as well as God? Joseph feared God! Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Real fear is to honor the law of God, obey it and avoid evil. Thou shalt not commit adultery is written in our heart. We must honor that Word and obey, and flee from youthful lust. Joseph obeyed. He was scared of breaking the law of God that was written in his heart more than anything. He just took off almost naked! It was a one-sided lust always. The wife tried to tempt him not just one time but many times, many days, then she tried to force the issue.

Gen. 39: 11-18. 11Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside. 12She caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside. 13When she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled outside, 14she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought in a Hebrew to us to make sport of us; he came in to me to lie with me, and I screamed. 15"When he heard that I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled and went outside." 16So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. 17Then she spoke to him with these words, "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; 18and as I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside."

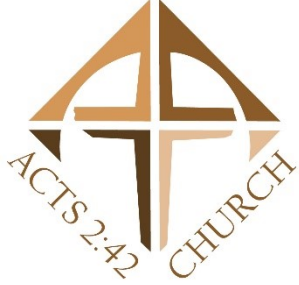
She became too bold. She tried to uncover Joseph by force, and Joseph had to run away from her.

The wife is the symbol of the devil. Devil tempts us in many ways. How are we handling it? Are we exercising self-control or falling into his traps? Let us be strong like Joseph and honor our God and our family by fleeing from sins of the flesh and spirit.

When the wife of Potiphar was turned down, she became very angry and she tried to frame Joseph as a rapist. She complained that she was the victim and Joseph was the perpetrator.

Gen. 39: 19,20. 19Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your slave did to me," his anger burned. 20So Joseph's master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king's prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail.

Potiphar was very angry! Naturally! The last thing anyone wants to see is a jealous, angry husband! He could easily have killed Joseph. After all, Joseph was just a slave, and the master has the right to take his



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life away. Potiphar had a good reason to kill. Potiphar spared Joseph's life because he loved him too much. Also, there was no proof of adultery. It was his wife's word against Joseph's. But basically, Joseph was spared because the Lord had made Potiphar decide that way. **No sparrow can fall to the ground without the Lord's approval.** But he was locked just like our Lord Jesus for no reason.

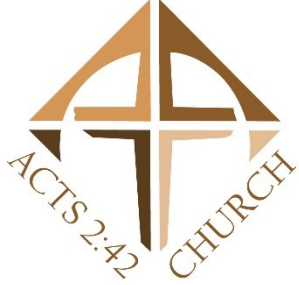
Genesis 39: 21-23 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. 22The chief jailer committed to Joseph's charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. 23The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph's charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.

But the Lord was with Joseph. He showed favor to Joseph through the jail warden. The warden loved Joseph so much, he made him supervise the prison for him. In other words, the warden allowed a convict to run his prison! All because of the Lord! No matter what circumstances we are in, if the Lord is with us, it is indeed well with our soul!

Even today, some wardens let the prisoners run the prison. Next to my office, was the office of the BGF leader of the whole eastern part of USA? The correctional officers bowed down to him. Women correctional officers traded sex for drugs. Officers were bringing drugs for him. He was running the prison. He was always having meetings with the warden, and assistant warden. No one tried to cross him. But I had quite a few arguments with him. He would push me to do something contrary to the directive, but I flatly refused, and he was mad many times. He could have easily set me up through his correctional officers to make the inmates stab me and kill me. But my life was never threatened. God's hand was upon me. God's favor was upon me. The gang leader himself saw that with his own eyes, and he told me also that I am God's favored person! By the grace of God, I was able to complete my years there without any problems in that prison as a chaplain. But that gang leader was monitored by FBI constantly when he was running his business through a cell phone from the prison. One fine day, they not only nabbed him but the whole network of gangsters inside and outside. It was a huge news!

Joseph was still a slave, still in prison, yet he was somebody great because of God. The true identity is not who you are in the world, but who you are in Christ.

Joseph was a wealthy boy before his slavery. He was the favorite of his father. He could have easily looked back constantly and wept over his misfortune. Life was very bad and it is obvious that nothing was going right for Joseph. He was abused by his brothers, sold as a slave, brought to a strange country, to a place where he did not know their language, customs, or culture.



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But Joseph did not wallow about his condition. He did not curse God for his condition. He did not blame his father or brothers for his current condition. Instead, he focused on his current situation, picked up his broken pieces, and started marching forward. Do not be crushed by setbacks of your life! You focus on honoring God always, and God will honor you in His time!

God wants you to focus on the present and give your hundred percent, and look toward to God's favor and blessing that will come slowly, steadily all the days of your life.

God's favor and blessing are not based on earthly success, but upon God's presence and favor in our life.

No matter what circumstances we go through God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Isaiah. 41:10 10'Do not fear, for I am with you;

Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,

Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Isaiah. 43:2. 2'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

And through the rivers, they will not overflow you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched,

Nor will the flame burn you.

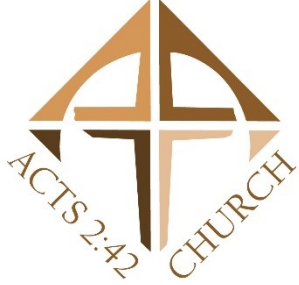
Isaiah 46:4. 4Even to your old age I will be the same,

And even to your graying years I will bear you!

I have done it, and I will carry you;

And I will bear you and I will deliver you.

4 times it is mentioned in chapter 39 that God was with Joseph!



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Genesis 39: 2,3 ,21,23.

If the Lord is with us, all is well with our soul and we are indeed blessed people! **The presence of the Holy Spirit is that guarantee of God's blessing. What can separate us from the love of God? Nothing!**

Pastor Daniel Israel