



Pursuing Integrity

Genesis 39:1-23

The challenge of living a holy life in a decadent world

Paul J. Bucknell

Starting point

- Each of us are born with a unique package determining not only our gene pool but our specific life circumstances that radically shape our lives and desires. God determines what goes in and what stays out of that specialized package.
- Our life-long journey
- The Run Pattern

A) God’s World (Genesis 39:1-6)

Acknowledge God’s hand in our life affairs

39:1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. 2 And the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So 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. 5 And it 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. 6 So 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 Joseph was handsome in form and appearance (Gen 39:1-6).

Remembering our losses (Genesis 39:1)

- Joseph was sold as a slave rather than killed.
- Ishmaelites took him to Egypt to be sold.
- Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites.
- Joseph was not asked what he wanted. No one checked and confirmed whether he was a free man or not. They just treated him as a slave.



The Surprise (Genesis 39:2)

“And the LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man.”

Joseph’s Success (Genesis 39:3-6)

- Horrible things sometimes happen to okay people.
- God intimately oversees the life of His people.
- Our hope is not in good circumstances but in God who makes bad good.
- Success due to God becomes a point of worship.
- Success reaches its zenith when others observe God’s special hand in our lives.



Application

- Am I at peace with the life God has given me?

B) God's Standards (Genesis 39:7-20)

Willing to live by God's standards

"7 And it came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." 8 But 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?" (Genesis 39:7-9).

- The Dangerous Circumstances (Genesis 39:7-23)
- Success breeds strong temptation.
- The Temptation (Genesis 39:7)
- Battling with temptation (Genesis 39:8-9)

(1) Persistence (Lust vs. Integrity)

(2) Crisis: The strong invitation

(3) Fled outside (no garment)

(4) Falsely Accused

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will **provide the way of escape** also, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Cor 10:13).

Application

- What temptation are you facing?
- What kind of reasoning enables you to withstand lust's power?
- Are you ready to run?

C) God's Plan (Genesis 39:20-23)

Trust God with life's ups and downs

16 So she left his garment beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she spoke to him with these words, "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; 18 and it happened as I raised my voice and screamed, that he left his garment beside me and fled outside." 19 Now it came about when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, "This is what your slave did to me," that his anger burned. 20 So 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. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

- Greater difficulties lead us to greater hope for the next steps.
- Trust ushers us into the room of blessing.
- Do you tend to panic?



Summary

- One will never be able to fully recover what was lost. Accept and go in hope and trust.
- God is overseeing your life to accomplish His special plan through you. Trust Him.
- Sexual purity is a place to demonstrate your trust in God's timing and plan.
- Accept life's ups and downs. Be ready for turns and twists. Cling to God's plan not to your hopes.