

## **JOSEPH**

### **"Living Above Mediocrity"**

### **Resisting Temptation**

So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! – **I Corinthians 10:12**

**"With great success comes greater trust, which can also result in greater times of unguarded vulnerability."**

- ❖ At this point in Joseph's life he finds his greatest challenge.
- ❖ The challenge to overcome temptation.
- ❖ Temptation will never give you a warning, it will wait for your most vulnerable time.

#### **Temptation can come in many forms:**

1) Material temptation:

"The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil."

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. – **I Timothy 6:10**

2) Personal temptation:

This is the lust for power and authority.

3) Sensual temptation:

When temptation takes over:

"The power of clear discrimination and decision are taken from us."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Remember: No one is above temptation.**

**How did Joseph overcome this particular temptation?**

So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,<sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"<sup>8</sup> But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern

himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.<sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"<sup>10</sup> And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.<sup>11</sup> One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.<sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.<sup>13</sup> When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,<sup>14</sup> she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.<sup>15</sup> When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." – **Genesis 39:6b-15**

1. Joseph's mind was made up before the temptation ever presented itself.
  - Joseph's strength came from his personal relationship with God.
  - Joseph did not hesitate when the temptation came.
  - Joseph never argued with temptation, you will always lose!
2. Joseph was loyal to his master.
3. Joseph was loyal to his God.
  - Every sin we commit is ultimately against God.

**"How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"**

4. Joseph  fled  temptation.
  - Joseph did not linger, he did not reason, he RAN!

The only way to overcome temptation is to expose it with the word of God.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. – **I Corinthians 10:13**