

FREE TEMPTATION

GENESIS 39, JOSEPH & POTIPHAR'S WIFE

SYNOPSIS

This sermon explores the story of Joseph in Genesis 39 and the daily battle every Christian faces with temptation. Holiness is the calling of every believer. God has saved us by grace, but He has also saved us for a life that reflects His character. Joseph's encounter with Potiphar's wife reveals how temptation works, how it pursues us, and how God provides strength to resist it. Temptation comes from many places: from others, from the Devil, and from the corruption still present in our own hearts. It is always crafty, arriving when we are tired, isolated, or vulnerable. And temptation is always deceptive, offering a counterfeit version of what our hearts long for while hiding the true cost of sin. Joseph shows us the necessity of fleeing temptation, but more importantly, Scripture reminds us that the Lord was with Joseph. Victory over temptation is found in daily nearness to God.

Main Idea

It is our great duty and concern to use all diligence, watchfulness, and care so that we may not fall into temptation.

SERMON OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

1. Christians are called to holiness.
2. Temptation lures us away from holiness toward sin.
3. Every believer has personalized temptations.
4. Joseph's story in Egypt teaches us how to understand and resist temptation.

1. THE SOURCES OF TEMPTATION

- A. Joseph's context in Potiphar's house.
- B. Joseph knew his own weakness and fled.
- C. Three sources of temptation
 - a. Other people
 - b. The Devil
 - c. Our corrupted hearts
 - i. The danger of flattering ourselves and ignoring our vulnerabilities.
 - ii. Compare yourself to Christ, not others.
 - iii. Personal examples of identifying sources of temptation.

2. THE CRAFTINESS OF TEMPTATION

1. Where we see temptation's craftiness
 1. The Timing of Temptation: Joseph's temptation came at a time when he was vulnerable.
 2. The Circumstances of Temptation: Joseph's temptation came when everyone else had left the house, and he and Potiphar's house were all alone.
 3. The Persistence of Temptation: Joseph's temptation came like a slow drip over and over, wearing him down
2. Joseph Flees because the Lord was with him. This sermon is not moralism. It is relationship with the living God.

3. THE DECEPTION OF TEMPTATION

- A. Temptation often plays on deep wounds and insecurities.
 - a. Potiphar's wife offered counterfeit companionship.
 - b. Examples of modern wounds and counterfeit comforts.
- B. Temptation always downplays the cost of sin.
 - a. The gospel offers true rest. Temptation offers a false one.
 - b. Sin's greatest cost is the grief it brings to our fellowship with Christ.
 - c. Christians must see temptation as real spiritual warfare.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where do you most clearly see the sources of temptation in your own life, whether from others, the Devil, or your own heart?
2. Which of the three aspects of the craftiness of temptation do you most relate to: timing, circumstances, or persistence?
3. What wounds or insecurities might temptation try to exploit in your life, and how can the gospel speak into those areas?
4. What practical steps can you take this week to deepen your daily walk with God so that you can resist temptation with His strength?