

Lie  
With  
Me

## Genesis 39:2 – 23



~ Our Spiritual Safari landed as far away from Judah as we could get in our previous report; and we re-joined Joseph in Egypt. He had just been sold to the Captain of the Guard, Potiphar, and has also landed a rather cushy job. We were forced through an almost unspeakable treachery with Judah and were somewhat traumatized by the previous chapter. I think those things all happened to Joseph and Judah at exactly the same time, too, by the way. Remember, Judah was only happy they didn't kill Joseph because it finally dawned on him that they could sell Joseph for money. The Lord meant for good what his brothers meant for harm. They sold him into the horrors of ancient Egyptian slavery - but God lifted him into the executive suite of Egyptian life. The fact that God is with this man is going to be true even as Joseph winds up in prison as the result of perjury against him.

Joseph is no hard-luck story, though, friends. Everything that happened to him was for a very definite purpose. Joseph will be strengthened with each event in his life; but the lessons from these calamities were still very hard for Joseph to understand. To him, trouble seems to be random and without much purpose; and always occurring just as things are going so well. Even so, there is no person in the Old Testament in which the direct leading of the Lord is more clearly seen than in Joseph. Every aspect of his outward life was dark and, friends, it looked bleak for Joseph many times; but every step in his life remarkably brought about Gods purpose for many people. The providence of God is detailed in every movement of Joseph's life.

The hand of God and the leading of the Lord are irrefutably and unquestionably evident in the lives of those who trust Christ. I can look back over many times in my life and see when the providential leading of the Lord is undeniable; and, let me tell you, friends: whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth. You might want to make a personal inventory of your

relationship with Christ today if you are not being chastened of God. We should also note that, if you are a child of God, then nothing happens to you without His expressed permission. So, if you are in Christ and bad things are happening to you then all things are working together for good. It's a good idea to really think these things over today. They are tremendously difficult truths to accept and, candidly, this is where a WHOLE lot of people part ways with Jesus! All of our heartbreaks and misfortunes; suffering and catastrophes - are all either engineered for or permitted to bring good for His glory! ~

***2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.***

***3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.***

***4 And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served Potiphar: and he made him overseer over his house, and all he had he put into Joseph's hand. And, so, Potiphar trusted Joseph with everything ~***

***5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.***

***6 And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and Potiphar did not know how much stuff and money he had, except for the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured – and to be trusted.***

***7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me.***

***8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;***

***9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?***

~ Potiphar must have been a very busy man. He probably made many excursions away from home; going into battle and for other business related duties, also. Unfortunately, he may have been away from home a little bit too much! All Potiphar knows is that the lawn is kept looking good, the house is clean and when he is in town there is food on the table at dinnertime. Potiphar trusted Joseph with literally everything – because Joseph is serving God in the midst of all of these catastrophes and temptations; and this was a real temptation, too. Potiphar’s wife was no average woman, you may be sure, and this didn’t just happen once or twice, either. I am sure she dogged Joseph with sexual innuendo’s day in and day out day after day. Joseph had free reign over the palace, and no one would have ever known – except God! Joseph maintains a high moral standard and a total dedication to God - and to his fellow man, Potiphar. That’s what this is all about, friends. How about you? Do you maintain that level of integrity? Could you? Anyone who is unfaithful in their marriage will be as far away from God as anyone possibly can be. So, here is Joseph’s reward for his high act of nobility....

***10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, which he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.***

***11 And it came to pass about this time that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.***

***12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.***

***13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,***

***14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:***

~ Well, no good deed goes unpunished; and hell hath no fury like a woman's scorn. I don't think things were very good to start with between Potiphar and his wife. She blames Potiphar for bringing this Hebrew, Joseph, into the home. I think the wife had probably done this once or twice before with other slaves. Here, I actually feel sorry for this ridiculously named sap called Potiphar. I'm sure he had his suspicions all along; he just didn't want to acknowledge it to be true. She's just covering her tracks when she says it's her husband's fault. I don't think Joseph was even twenty years old here and he's being framed for an awful crime of rape and convicted by outright perjury....

***15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.***

***16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.***

***17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:***

***18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.***

***19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.***

~ So, Potiphar isn't the brightest bulb the manufacturer manufactures, and he actually believes his wife. I really do feel sorry for him being married to her because she is certifiably crazy. On the other hand, they deserve each other; because he is truly an unjust, corrupt, immoral idiot. This wasn't the first time she had accused someone of rape, and this wasn't the first time she had been unfaithful, either; and Potiphar knows it but yet, he believes her - AGAIN! Joseph was supposed to be just another man in her conquest of men; but this time it didn't work out. If it had, she still wouldn't have been able to have him around anymore, of course. So, on face value, it looks as though God placed Joseph in a lose/lose situation....

***20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.***

~ Joseph hadn't experienced true unpleasantness until now as they 'bound' him up in an Egyptian prison. That means he was chained to the wall permanently. This was an excruciating existence to bear. Joseph had been a pretty good boy obeying his father when he went out to find his brothers and help them tend the sheep of the men they had murdered; but they bound him up and threw him in a pit. Then, he was stolen from them and sold into slavery by Ishmeelites. They bound him up and took him down to Egypt – all at about seventeen years old. Joseph spent many nights hungry, in anguish and homesick. We need to keep all of this in perspective by noting that Joseph's refusal to yield from his high moral standard has now landed him chained to a wall in a prison in ancient Egypt; and that even when Joseph had a good job he was still a slave - so he didn't stand a chance in life in any way, shape or form. A slave didn't speak against the word of an officer's wife under any circumstances – it was just out of the question – because it would have resulted in an immediate excruciatingly painful death....

***21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.***

***22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.***

***23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.***

~ The hand of God and the movement of God in the life of Joseph are seen here by us - but it wasn't seen quite so clearly by Joseph. What Joseph sees are the terrible things that have happened to him. Landing in an Egyptian prison after being in such a good job would be discouraging to the average person. I think Joseph was an average person at this time. I'm also sure the

keeper of the prison had been told this Hebrew had remarkable ability. Interestingly, without the leading of the Lord God in Joseph's life and the Word of God in our lives all of that may have resulted in another story that we, thankfully, know nothing about. This is all moving towards the accomplishment of a very definite purpose in Joseph's life now. Joseph recognized that and when he did it gave him an uplifting that was supernatural and could not be ignored. In spite of all of the bad things that were happening in his life, Joseph had an attitude of optimism and hope. He lived on top of his circumstances; the problems just didn't get him down. Personally, I would have to admit that I'm guilty of letting my circumstances live on top of me and hold me down – and I think many of you reading this are guilty of that also?

Discouragement is one of the most potent and finest weapons in Satan's arsenal. If Satan can hit us with disappointment then he usually wins the battle. Allowing our circumstances to drag us down places us where we are vulnerable to discouragement. The chastening of the Lord, which is not enjoyable and is always very grievous at the time, will yield the succulent fruit of righteousness in the life of Joseph. This lesson today is that every man does NOT have his price. There are some men Satan can't buy: Job, Paul, Peter and – Joseph. There are others. Satan certainly despises mankind; I assure you of that. So, was it God's will that Joseph be put in the prison? Was it essential that Joseph be chained up and thrown in that miserable place? In the next leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God we are going to see that it was, in fact, essential that Joseph be put in prison to glorify God ~

