

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 26, 2023

GENESIS 39:19-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph "*day by day*" (Gen. 39.10)
 - a) Joseph characterized adultery as "*great wickedness*" (Gen. 39.9).
 - b) Joseph did not give in because of his faithfulness to God. (Gen. 39.9; Matt. 22.37-40)
 - c) To sin against another is to sin against God. (2 Sam. 12.11; Ps. 51.4; 1 Cor. 8.12,13)
2. Having refused her advances, she falsely accused him of trying to seduce her.
 - a) She accused him of mocking the entire household. (Gen. 39.14; cf. Gen. 3.12)
 - b) She accused him of trying to seduce her. (Gen. 39.14)
 - c) She repeated the accusation to her husband. (Gen. 39.16-18)
3. Joseph's life was a story of rags to riches to rags to riches.

I. JOSEPH THE PRISONER

- A. The reaction of Potiphar.
 1. **GENESIS 39.19:** "*when his master heard the words... his anger was aroused.*"
 - a) We are warned of the jealousy of a husband. (Prov. 6.34,35; Num. 5.14)
 - b) How quickly his views of Joseph changed. (Gen. 39.4)
 2. **GENESIS 39.20:** "*Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison*"
 - a) The Egyptian laws were similar to the laws of Israel. (Lev. 20.10)
 - b) Perhaps Potiphar wasn't convinced and gave him a light sentence. (Gen. 39.5,6)
 3. **GENESIS 39.20:** "*a place where the king's prisoners were confined.*" The prison was underground in Potiphar's house. (Gen. 40.7; 41.14)
- B. The imprisonment of Joseph.
 1. **GENESIS 39.21:** "*But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy*" Would you consider being in prison a display of God's mercy? It could always be worse.
 2. **GENESIS 39.21:** "*He gave him favor in the sight of keeper of the prison*" Joseph did not find favor. He was given favor by God. (cf. Gen. 39.4)
 3. **GENESIS 39.22:** "*committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners.*" (cf. Gen. 39.5)
 4. **GENESIS 39.23:** "*under Joseph's authority*" (cf. Gen. 39.6)

II. LESSONS FROM JOSEPH'S IMPRISONMENT

- A. Sometimes bad things happen to good people.
 1. Repeatedly, we are told that the LORD was with Joseph, yet Joseph repeatedly found himself in trouble. (Gen. 39.2-5,21,23)
 2. Being a faithful Christian does not mean that you are immune to hardship.
 - a) Does it feel as if "*something strange is happening to you*" (1 Pet. 4.12)?
 - b) Paul was told "*how many things he must suffer for My name's sake*" (Acts 9.15,16).
 - c) In spite of his suffering, "*the Lord stood with me*" (2 Tim. 4.16,17).
 3. When bad things happen, it is a test of faithfulness. (Rev. 2.10)
- B. Even when bad things happen, we can still hold on to our integrity.
 1. It would have been easy for Joseph to be hardened by his experiences. But even in prison, he was a man of integrity. (Gen. 39.22,23; cf. Job 2.9)
 2. Being a faithful Christian means not giving up but remaining under the pressure. (Heb. 10.32-36; James 5.7-11;)