

Timeline of Truth – Joseph Serves Potiphar (Gen 39:1-21)

<p>¹ Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.</p>	<p>1. Joseph Is Bought by <u>Potiphar</u></p>
<p>² The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.</p>	<p>2. God Continued to <u>Be</u> with Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God uses Joseph in <u>any</u> position! • His success • His influence
<p>³ And his master saw that the LORD <i>was</i> with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. ⁴ So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all <i>that</i> he had he put under his authority. ⁵ So it was, from the time <i>that</i> he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. ⁶ Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate.</p>	<p>3. Joseph Finds <u>Favor</u> in Potiphar's Sight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3a – Potiphar sees that <u>God</u> is with Joseph • 3b – Potiphar sees that <u>God</u> prospers Joseph's efforts • 4a – Potiphar makes Joseph overseer of his <u>house</u> • 4b – Potiphar makes Joseph overseer of <u>all</u> he owns • 5 – God blesses Potiphar for <u>Joseph's</u> sake • 6 – Potiphar trusts Joseph <u>completely</u>
<p>Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷ And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."</p>	<p>4. Joseph Is <u>Tempted</u> by Potiphar's Wife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temptation Can Come to Anyone – Even a Slave • Success May Bring Additional Temptation
<p>⁸ But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what <i>is</i> with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. ⁹ "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you <i>are</i> his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"</p>	<p>5. Joseph <u>Refuses</u> Potiphar's Wife's Advances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My master <u>trusts</u> me • What you ask is <u>sin</u> • I will not sin against <u>God</u>
<p>¹⁰ So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her <i>or</i> to be with her.</p>	<p>6. Potiphar's Wife <u>Tempts</u> Joseph <u>Daily</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She continues to <u>tempt</u> him • He continues to <u>refuse</u> her
<p>¹¹ But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house <i>was</i> inside, ¹² that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me."</p>	<p>7. Potiphar's Wife <u>Grabs</u> Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She seemed to wait until no one was around • She not only spoke, but now grabs him • She seemed to think Joseph would say "yes" with the right prodding and circumstances. • Beware of entrapment...
<p>But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.</p>	<p>8. Joseph Immediately <u>Flees</u>, Leaving His Garment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <u>drastic</u> response to an enticing moment • <u>Fleeing</u> is a proper response!
<p>¹³ And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside, ¹⁴ that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.</p>	<p>9. Potiphar's Wife <u>Falsely Accuses</u> Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph succeeds, but pays for it • She uses his <u>purity</u> to frame him • She uses the occasion to <u>blame</u> her husband • She falsely accuses Joseph with the <u>evidence</u>

<p>¹⁵ "And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She needs to <u>hide</u> her own sin
<p>¹⁶ So she kept his garment with her until his master came home. ¹⁷ Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me; ¹⁸ "so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."</p>	<p>10. Potiphar's Wife Tells Potiphar Her Lie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has "evidence" • She blames her husband (shifts guilt) • She lies about what happened <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – "He came in to mock me." – "I cried out." – "He left is garment and fled." (He was undressed.)
<p>¹⁹ So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused. ²⁰ Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.</p>	<p>11. Potiphar Puts Joseph into Prison</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He becomes angry (about what?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – "YOUR servant" or "did this to me"? • Joseph is put into prison <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Where the king's prisoners were kept – He was not killed...
<p>²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.</p>	<p>12. God Continued to Be with Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God showed him mercy • God gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper

Lesson Summary Thoughts:

1. God Might Place You in a Difficult Position – It's Not an Accident

- God has bigger, broader plans than our comfort
- Trust God to orchestrate His plan in your life – obey Him no matter what.
- You will most likely not know now what God is doing.

2. God Can Use You in Any Position – It's an Opportunity

- An Opportunity to Prepare and Learn
- An Opportunity to Influence for God

3. Joseph Was Doing What God Wanted, and Yet Was Still Tempted

4. Joseph Was in a Situation Where He Could Not Avoid Being Tempted

- He managed all of Potiphar's belongings, including his house (v.4)
- He had to go through the house to the back daily (v.11)

5. Joseph Continually Said "No" to Temptation

- We can still say "no" to temptation, even if we cannot avoid it
- Temptation doesn't necessarily go away. We need to decide to say "no" always.

6. Joseph Was Trapped by Potiphar's Wife – He Did What He Could – Ran Out Immediately (He Fled)

- 1 Co 6:18-20 ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
- 1 Cor 10:13-14¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.
- 1 Tim 6:9-11⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.
- 2 Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.