

Devotional Thoughts

Genesis 39:9

"...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Joseph faced temptation that many would have succumbed to yet he resisted even when it cost him his job, reputation and freedom. There were many factors that could have influenced him to fail. His difficulties could have caused him to blame God for losing his family and his freedom making him bitter at God. The constant pressure from Mrs. Potiphar could have caused him to justify their relationship, after all she must not have been treated properly by her husband or she would not have been looking to the "help." The customs of Egypt were no doubt much freer than those of Scripture and he could have looked around and thought "everybody else is involved in these kind of behaviors." While there were many things that could have led Joseph to sin there was one thing compelling him to withstand, Joseph realized that a relationship with Potiphar's wife was a sin against God.

God has given us His Word so that we will understand His ways. Instead of blindly walking through life using our own experience or intellect as our compass we have been given the Word of God to lead us. The psalmist spoke of the **Bible as a light that illuminates our paths. Peter referred to it as a light that shines in the darkness until the dawn appears and the morning star arises.** Instead of blindly walking through life we can have the Word illuminate the way. Tragically many neglect the Word and use their own desire as a guide, thinking of themselves as a "good person" they do whatever seems best to them at the time. The end result is violating the ways of God and suffering the consequences that come with it.

Joseph's story was not over when the guards arrested him and threw him into prison. God still had plans for him and would richly bless his life. Doing things God's way did not derail the life of Joseph but if he had slipped the story would have taken a turn for the worst. The key to the blessed life is not doing things our own way, but doing them His way. Decision to obey the Word is decision that will be blessed by the Lord.

Pastor Jim