

S 3 2026 Servant's Conference
Joseph - PART 1
"Integrity in the Face of Temptation"
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Integrity has an antagonist named temptation. When honesty, sincerity, singleness of purpose or purity of heart and motive are character trademarks of the children of God, temptation is inevitable. Since the fall of Adam, inherent in the flesh of every human being who has ever lived (Jesus being the exception) is the propensity and possibility of being carried away by our own lust, James 1:14. Dietrich Bonhoeffer describes it as, "the moment Satan does not fill us with hatred of God but with forgetfulness of God."¹ The scriptures are replete with examples of people who loved God who withstood temptation and maintained integrity. We will study what we can glean from the patriarch, Joseph.

- I. NO EXEMPTIONS. Remember.
 - A. _____ was led by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil, Matthew 4:1-11. He maintained His integrity by relying on God and His word.
 - B. _____ was the focus of an inaudible conversation with God and Satan. He lost his family, wealth and health, Job 1-2. Through all his adversity he maintained his integrity as God said he would, Job 42:9 "Lord accepted Job."
 - C. _____ was picked on by his brothers, thrown in a pit to die, sold to passing slave traders, enslaved in Potiphar's service, incarcerated in prison, promoted to be CEO of Egypt Inc., faced with the hurt of his past and was used to preserve his own people. He maintained his integrity through the good and the bad seasons.

- II. EXPECT THE _____.
 - A. *"The Lord was with Joseph,"* was a recurring statement in Genesis 39:2, 21, 23. This contrasted the natural thinking that nothing bad or evil should happen. Although he had been abused, abandoned and sold to slavery by his own brothers. He had been resold by the Ishmaelites and bought by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard. *"The Lord was with Joseph."* The words of Job to Mrs. Job are certainly applicable. *Job 2:10 (NASB95) But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we*

¹ Swindoll, Charles R., *Joseph a Man of Integrity and Forgiveness*, Word Publishing, Nashville, 1998, pg. 22.

indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

- B. The Lord's presence in his past adversities, his absence of bitterness and his integrity still intact, enhanced his _____. He became so successful that Potiphar entrusted him with all he owned, 3-6a.
- C. Joseph's physical good looks, physique, intelligence, authority and personal success were _____ that attracted temptation. Unknown to the natural eye was his singleness of purpose to please God. His experiences of overcoming being severely harassed by his brothers in the home was now tested as sexual harassment by his boss's wife in the workplace, 6b-7.

Quote: Thomas Carlyle the Scottish essayist wrote, "Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man, but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are 100 that will stand adversity."

III. PAY ATTENTION TO THE _____.

- A. Insist _____. Use your words. Joseph emphatically expressed several reasons for not succumbing to her lustful desires. I am entrusted to be honest, 8. I have been given this great responsibility, 9a so more is required of me, Luke 12:48. More importantly, I will not do evil and sin against God, 9b.
- B. Persist _____. The more resolute Mrs. Potiphar pursued her quest for him to have sex with her, the more Joseph remain unchanged and fixed in his godly character, condition, and position, 10.
- C. Resist by _____. Joseph exerted his energy and counteracted her action in an extreme but necessary means. He ran 11-12. "You cannot yield to temptations of any kind if you are running away from it." Joseph's response preceded and personified the wisdom of Proverbs 6:20-35.

IV. TRUST GOD'S WAY OF _____. *No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it, 1Corinthians 10:13.*

- A. Joseph's integrity was concrete, yet he faced consequences that he did not control. Naturally speaking, insisting, persisting and resisting temptation should always have _____ results. However, spiritual integrity is contrasted with antonyms like blame, lies, rage, pretense and false accusations like those by Mrs. Potiphar, 13-19. "Integrity does not constitute the absence of adversity."

- B. Potiphar's anger reflected the husband of Proverbs 6:29, 34-35. Some commentators suggest he was angrier with his wife than with Joseph. The escape _____ was that a professional persecutor commanding Pharaoh's army put a slave he owned in jail rather than killing him immediately, 20.
- C. Joseph had gone from being the preferred son of Jacob to being thrown in a pit by his brothers. Then he went from being a slave to a trusted servant of Potiphar and was put in prison. *"But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer,"* 21.
- D. Joseph maintained his firm adherence to the _____ and values in every circumstance God allowed. Like Jacob, Potiphar and the jailer he was charged with doing what was right. He was productive and prospered because he believed and lived faithfully that *"the Lord was with him"*, 22-23.

CONCLUSION: We live in an evil world, and the only true good in it is what God brings into it. And He accomplishes that primarily through our faithful obedience to Him. The power of integrity is simple. Obey God and watch Him use you to transform lives around you.²

² MacArthur, John F. *The Power of Integrity*, Crossway Way Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1997, pg.157