

“Joseph: Perspective that Perseveres” Genesis 37, 39

At age 17, Joseph had an encounter with God that gave him a huge vision for the purpose of his life. He believed that God had something marvelous for him to do. But adversity and temptation challenged his faith and threatened his destiny? How would Joseph respond, and what can we learn from this faithful and unlikely hero?

Destiny and Deception - Genesis 37

- Chosen by his Father
 - Faithful servant
 - “brought back a bad report”
 - Unpopular, but trustworthy
 - Favored son
 - 1st born of Jacob’s beloved wife Rachel and the “son of his old age”
 - New owner of a multicolored tunic
- Chosen by his God
 - 2 dreams confirmed Jacob’s choice
 - Huge vision for his life at age 17

Betrayed and Enslaved - Joseph’s 1st Great Test

What would happen to his faith in the dreams?

Would he despair over the loss of his destiny or remain faithful to the God who had chosen him?

Providence and Prosperity - Genesis 39

- Sold to the head of security
- “The Lord was with Him” (x2)
 - The cause of his prosperity
 - Prosperity led to greater responsibility
 - Luke 16:10
- Is prosperity a blessing?
 - Yes! But it is also a TEST
 - “The temptations that accompany prosperity are far greater (and far more subtle) than those that accompany adversity.” - Swindoll

The Temptress - Joseph's 2nd Great Test

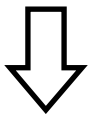
- The Invitation - "Lie with me"
- The RSVP - "He refused"
 - Proverbs 6:24-29

"The commandment is a light... to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress. Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her catch you with her eyelids. Can a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?"

- The Instinct - "He fled"
 - I Corinthians 6:18
"Flee sexual immorality" a.k.a. "RUN!!!"
 - The way of wisdom is to consider the cost of sin. Joseph did not yield because He was convinced that God had something marvelous for him to do.
- The Result - She lied
 - Obedience is not always rewarded immediately

The Big Picture

Understood his
PURPOSE

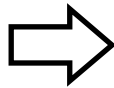


Created
PERSPECTIVE

Fulfilled God's
PLAN



Enabled
PERSEVERANCE



Understanding my PURPOSE

- Relationship with God through Christ
- Service to God through Christ
 - Do you know your gifts?
 - Can you tell us your current, specific calling in one sentence?

Creating Perspective

- Is God really in control?
- Have I counted the cost of sin?