

How to Handle Temptation (Plea, Free, and Flee)

Genesis 39:1-23; Matthew 4:1-11

The story in today's lesson deals with Joseph and his encounter with Potiphar's wife, and the temptation that he had to deal with. We are going to look at this story in several different ways over the next several weeks. God has many things to show us through the lives of these people. One of those things is the manner in which Joseph handled the temptation from Potiphar's wife. Let's look at Genesis 39:1-23.

1. **Verse 8** - Joseph pleaded with Potiphar's wife to stop and that it would be wrong. He told her exactly the truth about the request and understood that it would be a sin against God as well as Potiphar, his trusting boss. Does this sound like the Garden of Eden? Does this sound different in the response to the request to sin from Eve? Here we see that Joseph refuses to sin against God, even though it would have been pleasurable. Unlike Eve, who gave into her fleshly desires.
2. **Verse 12b** - We are shown the proper way to escape here. Joseph freed himself and went outside. He wanted to get away from the hold she had on him and as far as possible from the situation. Now he knew he had left his coat, but he left anyway. Sometimes we stay around just to get our coat. We keep going back to the same situations because we forget something. We never learn that it is best often to leave it there. God was with Joseph.
3. **Verse 12b** - Not only did he free himself, he fled. All too often we just get free from the hold of that moment, but never flee the situation completely. We just stand around or go back. God is rewarding Joseph for his obedience in freeing and fleeing. Joseph knew it was going to be hopeless and he knew the chance he was taking. Yet he knew that God was with him and all would work for God's glory and best.