

Genesis 39 resumes the story of Joseph that began in chapter 37. After being sold into slavery to some Ishmaelite traders, Joseph makes his way to Egypt and eventually is sold to a high profile guard of Pharaoh.

Genesis 39:1-23

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Knowing God's plan for our lives would sure be a nice...or would it? If we could know all the details of God's plan for our lives, what kind of problems could potentially arise? What kind of problems arise when we *don't* know what the Lord is up to? How do we handle the unknowns of life, especially the difficulties they can present when we find ourselves in situations that are unjust?

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

HOW would you describe your typical reaction to unjust situations and/or decisions?

DESCRIBE an experience in life when you faced some kind of injustice.

CAN you recall a time when God used a time of waiting in your life in order to reveal a specific lesson learned?

WHAT relationship do waiting and unjust experiences share with each other?

Genesis 39:1-23 Read Genesis 39:1-23

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OBSERVATION

According to vs. 1, how did Potiphar attain Joseph?

What kind of success did Joseph achieve while serving Potiphar (vs. 2-7)?

What do you observe about Joseph's description in vs. 6?

How might you describe Potiphar's wife from the text?

According to vs. 11, why was Joseph susceptible to Potiphar's wife?

What was the false narrative Potiphar's wife shared with the men of the house in vs. 14-18?

In his anger, what does Potiphar choose to do with Joseph (vs. 19-23)?

What phrase is repeated throughout this section (vs. 2, 21, 23)?

INTERPRETATION

Throughout the injustices committed toward him, what seems to happen to Joseph's faith, composure, and heart for God?

Do Joseph's circumstances seem to be a result of God's displeasure with him? How do you know?

How long has Joseph been in Potiphar's service? See Gen. 37:2, 41:46, 41:1. How might this much time spent and the trust shared have possibly shaped their relationship?

While it is speculative, why do you think Potiphar chose to throw Joseph into prison instead of having him killed for his actions?

How has Joseph's character/behavior remained the same in prison as it was with Potiphar? Why do you think he's been able to avoid bitterness and resentment based upon his circumstances?

How does the fact that the Lord was with Joseph in these scenarios (vs. 2, 21, 23) sustain him in tough circumstances? How ought this principle hold true for us today as well? See Romans 8:31.

When you consider the strategy Joseph employs to avoid sexual sin, what practical application are you able to take away? Consider 1 Corinthians 6:18-20.

APPLICATION

While injustice is part of the fallen world in which we live, how can we walk with God regardless of our circumstances?