

**TAKING A STAND  
LIKE JOSEPH**  
Genesis 39:1-12

## INTRODUCTION

Genesis 39 returns to our biographical study of Joseph's life. Each event holds lessons for the reader to reflect on and apply. Joseph, hated and abandoned by his brothers, had been taken down to Egypt, having been sold to Ishmaelite merchants. *Psalm 105:17, Acts 7:9*. As Genesis 39 begins, Joseph now becomes a slave in Egypt, and will face trials and temptations, yet not give in to them. In observing Joseph's life and actions, we gain great insight into this young man's heart. In our "Egypt", let's learn how to be **Taking A Stand Like Joseph**.

## DIGGING DEEPER

Read through Genesis 39:1-12. Joseph had received dreams from God about his future. But now he is sold into slavery in Egypt - a foreign culture with different standards. He doesn't know the language, is all alone and has no idea what lies ahead. In this strange and wicked land, he will now face a long trial. How will Joseph respond when temptations and trials come? Where is God now?

*Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.*

I. Genesis 39:1-4. Joseph is taken down to Egypt. In a difficult and confusing time, Joseph knew the Lord's presence and favor. He even found favor in Potiphar's sight. ***"The Lord was with Joseph... the Lord made all that he did prosper in his hand."*** God is with you and He is for you, even in the midst of great trials. *Deuteronomy 31:6, Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:31*

II. Genesis 39:5-6a. Joseph is trustworthy. Recognizing that the Lord was with Joseph, Potiphar knew Joseph was a man of integrity. He turned all his affairs and possessions to Joseph to oversee. Joseph had such an intimate relationship with the Lord. Beloved, grow more in love with the Lord each day. *2 Chronicles 15:2, Jeremiah 33:3, 2 Peter 3:18*

III. Genesis 39:6b-9. Joseph is tested. As the overseer of Potiphar's house, Joseph is in the midst of Egyptian (worldly) culture and customs. Like today, sexual immorality abounds. Potiphar's wife continually tries to get Joseph to lie with her. No doubt tempted, Joseph probably could have gotten away with it. He could have given in and justified his actions, feeling like a victim - after all, hasn't God abandoned him & left him to fend for himself? He could have rejected the teachings from "Mom and Dad back home" and embrace the normal and acceptable behavior of Egypt where he now lives as a man. There are always ways to justify sin and give ourselves an excuse. Be like Joseph. Hold on to God's standard, full of integrity, and uncompromising.

***"How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Selah***

IV. Genesis 39:10-12. Three characteristics of sin. Notice the actions of Potiphar's wife. 1. She persisted - attempting to wear Joseph down. 2. She isolated him - making him vulnerable. 3. She became more aggressive - trying to overpower him. Her goal is to cause you stop resisting and finally give in. *James 1:14-16* How can you fight this constant temptation to sin?

***"he did not heed her...he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside!"***

Each of us may be in a situation or relationship that you know is wrong. Like Joseph, the sin that tests you is strong. Perhaps this temptation to sin is not sexual in nature, but involves other lusts or desires. *Deuteronomy 11:16, 1 Timothy 6:9, 1 John 2:15-17*

**CONSIDER .....** Joseph provides a model to fight against this sin. Let's see how he passed the test in Genesis 39:1-12....

- Have moral clarity concerning sin. God defines right and wrong. *Proverbs 4:14-15, Isaiah 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22*
- Love God so much you'd not want to sin against Him. *Psalm 97:10, Mark 12:29-30, 1 John 4:19*
- Be ready to flee and run outside, away from the sin. *Proverbs 1:10, 2 Timothy 2:20-23, James 4:7-8*

***"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."***

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

## PRAY .....

- for the Lord to reveal any area of your life where you are being worn down by the world's perspectives and are beginning to compromise.
- the church as a whole to stand strong in Biblical principles.
- for the community to engage in the Puerto Rico outreach with us.
- a renewed passion to be more Christ-like