

### Study Questions

Ice breaker: Describe a powerful person whose career and reputation was ruined because of moral failure.

1/ Define temptation?

2/ "The temptations that accompany prosperity are far greater than those that accompany adversity." Discuss.

3/ Describe some of the different ways we are tempted in our lives.

4/ What exactly does Paul mean when he says that God will always give us a way out of temptation? How does this manifest itself in our lives?

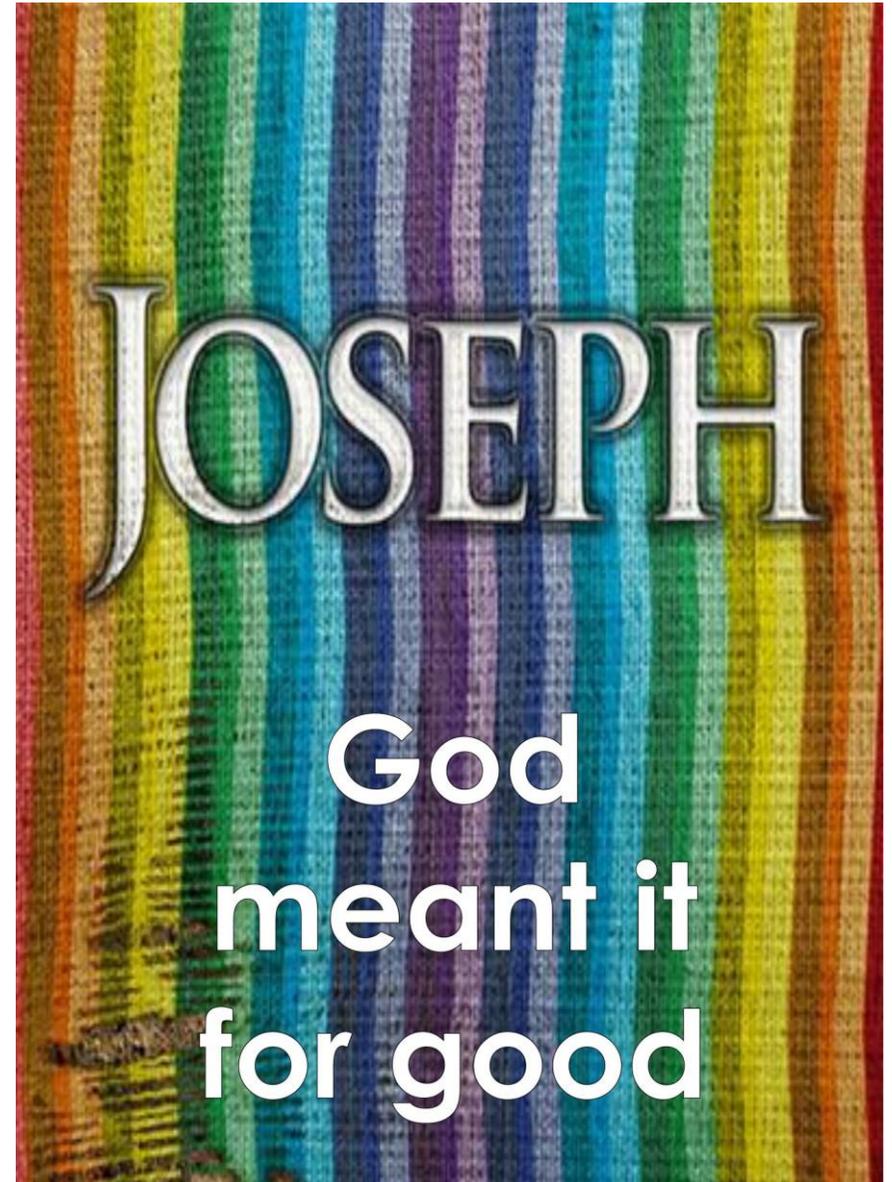
5/ How did Joseph respond to the temptation he faced?

6/ How are we responding to the reality of temptation in our lives?

7/ What are the keys to resisting temptation? Discuss.

8/ Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 6v10-18 that we are in a spiritual battle and that we need to put on the full armour of God. How does the armour of God give us victory over the battle with temptation?

This week: Be aware of the spiritual battle that is going on. Be on your guard against temptation.



**Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline**

**Sermon 6- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March**

**"The 3 R's of temptation" Genesis 39**

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## “The 3 R’s of temptation” Genesis 39

Nelson’s Bible Dictionary defines temptation as *“an enticement or invitation to sin, with the implied promise of greater good to be derived from following the way of disobedience.”*

Joseph faced temptation as described in Genesis Chapter 39. We reflected last week on how Joseph prospered in difficult circumstances because the Lord was with him. He quickly rose to a position of prominence in Potiphar’s house. Joseph was so capable and trustworthy that his Master gladly put all his possessions in Joseph’s care. It was God’s providence that had placed Joseph in Potiphar’s house. However, the plot thickened, when Potiphar’s wife began to take an illicit interest in her husband’s Hebrew slave. But even as Joseph faces temptation, is falsely accused and then wrongly imprisoned, we see the hand of God at work. *“People meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.”*

Let’s reflect on the temptation Joseph faced.

### 1/ The Reality of Temptation

Joseph prospered, he had been successful and he had gained the trust of Potiphar. But with greater success comes greater measures of trust, which by the way leads to greater times of unguarded vulnerability.

The temptations that accompany prosperity are far greater than those that accompany adversity. Joseph was certainly successful. He had just about everything- fame and power, authority and respect. As well as managing Potiphar’s entire household we are also told at the end of v6 that: *“Joseph was well-built and handsome.”* Joseph is a young, single, attractive male, who has inherited the good looks of his mother. **READ GEN 29v17.**

Potiphar’s wife fancied Joseph. She lusted after him. She didn’t mince her words. **READv7.** She basically says: Come to bed with me I want to have sex.

We will all face temptation to sin in our lives. Whether it’s sexual sin, pride, gossip, etc.

The apostle Paul encourages us with these words from **1 Corinthians 10v13** *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted he will provide you with a way out so that you can stand up under it.”*

How do we respond when we face temptation? Let’s consider how Joseph responded?

### 2/ The Response to Temptation

We are told in verse 8 that he said NO! We get the impression from the passage that he did not hesitate before responding. He did not linger on her request or allow himself to be flattered. If we linger, sin takes hold. **READ James 1v14-15.** Joseph instantly responded NO!

- **He resisted the temptation.** Why? 1/ His loyalty to his master. **Read Gen 39v8.** 2/ His loyalty to God. **Read Gen 39v9.**
- **He refrained from being around situations where he would face the temptation.** **Read Gen 39v10.**
- **He ran from the temptation** **Read Gen 39v11-12**

He had resisted, he had refrained, this time he ran. He got out of the situation as quick as he could. Whenever the New Testament lingers on the subject of sexual temptation, it gives us one command: RUN! It does not tell us to reason with it, or think about it, but to FLEE it. **1 Cor 6v18: “Flee from sexual immorality.”**

How are we responding to the reality of temptation in our lives?

### 3/ What are the keys to Resisting Temptation?

- **God loves you**
- **You are in a spiritual battle** **Eph 6v10-18**
- **Live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit** **Galatians 5v16**
- **Know and obey the Word of God** **Psalms 119v11**
- **Prayer** **Mark 14v38**
- **Use your common sense** **Mth 26v41**
- **Repent when you fail** **Romans 8v1**

As we consider Joseph we always remember the **three R’s. Resist, Refrain, Run.**

Armed with His Spirit and the truth of His Word, we are well equipped to overcome Satan’s assaults. No matter what trials and temptations come our way, God’s Word and Spirit are infinitely more powerful than any of Satan’s schemes.