

Lessons from the Life of Joseph Part 4

“10 And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. 11 And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.” (Genesis 39:10-11 KJV)

Joseph had determined to keep himself pure; he refused to lay with his master wife and he refused also neither to be with her nor to have any intimacy with her, and he was concentrating to do his job and that was the way for him to do his works and to avoid temptations. But that woman was so wicked and in spite of all his explanation to her still she did one more attempt toward him when he was working and there was no other men in the house as we can read: **“12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” (Genesis 39:12 KJV)** Joseph even with what she did he did not yield to her. She caught him by his garment and asked him to sleep with her, but he determined to leave his garment with her and immediately fled out of the house in order that he will not be tempted by her smell, touches and voice, because all such may weakened him. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- You avoid to be touched by the opposite gender to avoid touch, smell and voice stimulations that might cause you to lose your self-control and fall in sin.
- Run away as Joseph determined not to sin and escape the trap of the devil that he prepared for you to fall in sin with the opposite gender.

“13 And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, 14 That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: 15 And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.” (Genesis 39:13-15 KJV) That woman when she saw that Joseph had left her and even had left her garment with her, she called the men and she told them a fabricated story about Joseph that he came to her in order to use her, accusing him further that he mocked them with what he did, and also she said that when she started to raise her voice that he was afraid and so he left his garment with her and went out. That woman did such either because she was afraid that Joseph would tell what she did or she did such because she knew that it would be impossible for her to lay with him and so her pride was injured and she did so in order to revenge of him. Now her story was clearly fabricated because if he was the one who attached her he should not have his garment with her. But they believed her and did not think otherwise because she was the wife of their master and Joseph after all was a slave bought by money. But what we can say here about Joseph that he was willing even to be persecuted but he would not give in and sin against God. People now a day run after temptations but Joseph did the opposite, he ran away from temptations and up to the point that he was willing to be persecuted, and for sure when he ran away from the woman he was sure that she will do such against him and he was ready to bear because he did not want to sin against God. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- No one can force you to do wrong as long as you are willing to keep yourself pure.
- Be willing to be persecuted to continue in holiness rather than to fall in sin and be in disgrace in God’s presence.
- Be like Joseph and set a good example to others to follow the way you live your life to God, especially to those who had determined to obey God and live a holy life for him.

The woman was not satisfied that she made a scandal to Joseph in front of the rest of the people in the house, but she reported the same faked story to her husband: **“16 And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. 17 And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: 18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. 19 And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” (Genesis 39:16-20 KJV)** She reported him to her husband so she will get rid of him and to throw him in the prison, perhaps that she will be sure that he will not speak about what she was trying to do with him. When his master heard from her got angry to Joseph and without listening to Joseph and without doing investigations he believed her, so he took Joseph and threw him in the prison. Joseph we did not read about him that he spoke to his master to defend himself. He was aware it will be useless to speak; his master would not believe him and would not accept that his wife was the one doing the role of the harlot behind him. If Joseph would speak it might become worse on him. So he kept silent and waited to be thrown in the prison, and perhaps he was aware that this will be his next place when he ran away from the woman and left his garment with her. Sure while all that was taking place Joseph did not try to change what was taking place and most likely he was aware that this was the new scenario that God wanted him to go through. When his brethren threw him in the well he pleaded with them for his life but nothing changed, and he needed to go through what God had ordained for him to pass through. So now he surrendered himself fully to God and accepted to be taken to the new place, to the prison, where God wanted him to spend the next period of his life. He trusted God that He will vindicate him and will prove him innocent in His perfect time, and he entrusted God that He will make the best outcome of his life. So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Surrender your life and your will fully to God, accept the new scenario that God had placed you in, for no point trying to change it; God had ordained it for you to pass through and He wants you to serve His purpose fully in your life.
- No point to defend yourself because it may become worse. Wait for God to reveal the truth and to vindicate you at His perfect time.
- Trust God and entrust Him the rest of your life, He can and He will make the best outcome out of it.

“21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. 23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his

hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.” (Genesis 39:21-23 KJV) As Joseph agreed with God and was willing to endure the new scenario and the life style that God had ordained for him, and as he went gladly into the way that God had allocated for him, God also went and was with him. In verse 21 we can read the following: **“But the LORD was with Joseph”**, imagine that God would leave the whole world and be with one person, Joseph; why? Because Joseph was willing to be with God; **therefore when you are willing to be with God then you will also see that God is going along with you and you are not alone.** God expressed His presence in the life of Joseph by showing mercy him as we read, **“and shewed him mercy”**; God showed him mercy to manage the new tasks that was entrusted to him in the prison and to overcome all the struggles that he would face there. The following was what Joseph suffered in the prison, **“16 Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread. 17 He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant: 18 Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron: 19 Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.” (Psalm 105:16-19 KJV)** They treated him as a criminal for they had put his feet in iron chains, and it might be other parts of his body like his hands and his neck they placed in iron. But God laid upon him His mercy. The mercy of God can include good health, healing and recovery from sicknesses and infirmities, joy and peace in terrible circumstances, increasing measures of faith, strength, skills, inspirations and even hope that can increase him confidence on God and he would believe that all circumstanced would work for his own benefit. **The mercy is what we need today to face all our struggles and the trials that God would allow us to pass through as had happened with Joseph.** God also granted Joseph favor in the sight of the jailer, the keeper of the prison. That favor that Joseph got he worked it out that he got also the trust of the keeper of the jail; that he started to trust Joseph of all that he needed to do and accomplish with the prisoners. It seemed also that he committed to him all the prisoners of all what needed to be done by them, Joseph was the overseer and direct supervisor for such tasks, **“and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.”** Finally the keeper of the prison was not checking after Joseph of what he was doing, and so he got the full confidence on Joseph and he fully trusted him, and the reason behind that because God was with him while he was in the prison and that whatever he was doing God prospered, **“23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.” (Genesis 39:23 KJV)** So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- **Surrender your life and your will fully to God. Go with God to whatever place or circumstance that He wants to take you to.**
- **Trust God that He shall be with you as you go with Him. He will neither leave you nor forsake you.**
- **As you surrendered your will fully to God and went to where He sent you then pray and rely on His mercy that He will enable you to pass through all the sufferings and all the impossible circumstances that seem beyond your capability.**
- **As you surrendered your will fully to God and went to where He sent you then pray and rely on the favor of God that He would grant you in the sight of the people who are over you, that they will trust you and will help you to accomplish what God had asked you to do.**

- **As you surrendered your will fully to God and went to where He sent you then pray and trust God that He will continue to be with you and grant you success in all what you do and He will let people to notice that and they will promote you as had happened with Joseph.**
- **Do not be overwhelmed with sorrow and grief but put in your mind that there is task that God needs you to do in that new place and circumstance that you had placed in.**

“1 And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt. 2 And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. 3 And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. 4 And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward.” (Genesis 40:1-4 KJV) While Joseph was in the prison, the butler the chief person who was responsible over the persons to give Pharaoh the cup to drink and the baker the chief person who was responsible over the persons to give Pharaoh the various kinds of bread and pastries to eat, both they offended Pharaoh being suspected to be involved in poisoning him by the food and the drink that he was going to eat and drink, so as they were charged and placed under investigation they put them in the prison, in the ward, in the house of the captain of guard, into the same prison or place that Joseph was kept. Such prisoners were so important not only because of the possible charges that were against them but also because of their high position in the offices of Pharaoh. Therefore they needed to attend well in the prison until the investigation would be ended and Pharaoh would decide about them. Therefore the captain of the guard needed to treat them well and keep a responsible person to attend their needs and serve them. We did not read that the keeper of the prison assigned a person over them, but the higher person than him who was the captain of the guard, the person who bought Joseph and who was his master as we read, **“1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.” (Genesis 39:1)** That captain of the guard, Potiphar, assigned Joseph over them. Now we know why the captain of the guard placed Joseph in the prison, because of the false charges of his wife against him, but now he gave him a high task that he needed to do with the butler and the baker of Pharaoh, which means he trusted him much, which means he was aware at that time and convinced that Joseph was innocent and his wife was the one at fault and Joseph was her victim. So here clearly Joseph was vindicated and God revealed the truth even to his master that he was an innocent person. Now the other aspect of this truth from the Scripture, that even Joseph was innocent and was vindicated but he would not be able to leave that prison at all because his master who bought him would not be able to take him out of the jail and put him again in his house because there will be again troubles with his wife, as well as if he would take him out everyone would believe that his wife was the one who played the harlot, and so with such outcome Joseph would stay forever there in that place unless a person higher than his master, which means only Pharaoh would be able to overpower the captain of the guard and order Joseph to be set free. Joseph was aware of all such facts, but what was his response? We can read the following about him, **“and he served them”**. Joseph as if was not affected and he continued to work and do his service in the place that God had assigned and placed him in. And he continued to serve the butler and the baker as they were assigned

to him by his master the captain of the guard, because he was trusting God that He will neither leave him nor forsake and He had a good plan for him, and at the proper time He would take him out of that place.

My dear and beloved: So the lessons that you can learn here from the life of Joseph are the following:

- Trust God fully that at the proper time He will vindicate you and prove you innocent and free you from the charges that was set against you.
- Trust God fully that He can and He will sure take you at His perfect time to the new place that He assigned for you. Whatever barrier above you and ahead of you, trust Him that He is your Master and He is above all powers.
- Trust God fully expressing that by continuing serving Him and the people entrusted to you knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Now ask God to work in your life and to mould you according to the lessons we learned in this message from the life of Joseph to be the person that He wants you to be. Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give us eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me how to live in holiness and to move away from sins. Lord thank you for revealing your will and your plan that you had ordained for me to pass through. Lord thank you for all the lessons that I learned in this message from the life of Joseph. Lord thank you for all your teaching, the rebukes, the corrections and the admonishments that we received from your Word.

Let us confess and renounce our sins. Confess and repent of your non willingness to fight against sins and all kinds of temptations. Confess and renounce your non willingness to stand firm for Christ and to be persecuted. Confess and renounce your doubts and your lack of faith and full trust on God. Repent of withholding yourself and your non willingness to offer yourself, your life, your gifts and skills and all the materials you have to God. Repent of your lack of reading God's Word and your lack of prayers. Repent of your yoke with non believers and wasting your time on the Media, News and games. Lord I am coming back to you, I repent and turn away from the following sins _____.

Lord uphold me with your grace and mercy. I put my full faith and trust on you. Lord I accept the scenario that you had placed me in, knowing that your plan that you have for me is better of what I had planned for myself. Lord lead me and help me to live and do your will in my life. Lord have mercy on me. I need your mercy to pass through this difficult condition _____. Lord grant me favor in the eyes of the people that you put me under them _____. Lord I commit myself to serve you and live my life for you. Lord I commit myself to all the lessons and the instructions that we received from the life of Joseph in this message. Lord vindicate me, protect me from persecution, and provide for me to continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins, and who committed themselves to walk in your ways and follow the good example of Joseph and the teaching

we received in this message. Lord have mercy on them, answer their prayers, grant them favor from the people over them, vindicate them, and prosper all the works of their hands. Lord sustain them and continue to provide their daily needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to go on in the plan that you have for us. Lord have mercy on us and on all our workers, grant us favor and prosper all the works of our hand. Lord protect us from persecution and continue to provide for us to continue to serve you. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit, and lead us and enable us to reach new people, making new disciples and training new workers, and to plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord I pray for more people to be water baptized, and receives the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming that we will go with you when you come to take us. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the rest of the people who need to hear your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: [00971551902647](tel:00971551902647)

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