

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 38 & 39

8/19-20/2024

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - Audio & notes - previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 38 – Judah and Tamar - (vs. 1-30)!

Genesis Chapter 39 – Joseph a Slave in Egypt - (vs. 1-23)!

Chapter 38 is sandwiched in here in the story of Joseph. It is an interesting picture of Judah and his sin and the Messianic line. This chapter is about the only insight that we have upon what is going on back home while Joseph is in Egypt, until Jacob came down with the family, about 22 years later into Egypt to live.

Judah and Tamar

Gen 38:1 It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite (think caves of Adullam) whose name was Hirah.

- **That is, after Joseph had been sold and is down in Egypt**, Judah probably had seen enough. He was just sick of them and their cruelty towards Joseph.

Gen 38:2 And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her and went in to her.

- **They're really sort of dwelling as strangers in the land.** These guys are getting in their twenties. It's time for them to marry. They can't go back to their Uncle Laban and find a wife back there because Laban and the family there had been corrupted in idolatry. So their choice for brides is rather limited. Judah picked this gal, who was a Canaanite, who he hoped he could convert to the belief in the one true and living God. That he was ever successful is problematical. It doesn't indicate so by the scripture. In fact, there are indications that it did not happen.

Gen 38:3 So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er (watcher).

Gen 38:4 She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan (strong).

- **Now notice he named the first son and she named the second and she named the third.** It didn't take her long to take over in the family. She bore a son.

Gen 38:5 And she conceived yet again and bore a son, and called his name Shelah. He was at Chezib when she bore him.

Gen 38:6 Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar.

- **From these verses there is a period of time that elapsed, because we have the birth of Er** and now the next verse we have Er getting married. So we're jumping a period of time here.

Gen 38:7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him.

- How or why, we don't know, except that he was wicked, but just what was the wickedness is left silent as far as the scripture is concerned.

Gen 38:8 And Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother."

- **Now this was a common practice.** This is the first mention of it in the Bible. In that culture if a man married and died before he had any children, his next oldest brother would have to take her as his wife. So the firstborn would be named after the dead brother and would be considered of the family of the dead brother, so the family name would be perpetuated and not die.
- **Now later on this became a part of the Law. In Deuteronomy, chapter 25. We are told** that if a man should marry a wife and die before he had any children, his brother was to take her as his wife and raise up a seed for the brother who had died. But God gave an out if the brother didn't want to marry her. He could say, "No, I don't want to marry her." Onan didn't have that out that God gave later in the Law. However, Onan will take the matter into his own hand, being totally disapproved by God.
- **Moving on a little further in the Bible, in the book of Ruth**, when Ruth and Naomi return from Moab after Elimelech, Naomi's husband and her two sons, Mahlon and Chilion, died, that Ruth coming back with Naomi went into the field of Boaz to glean. At the end of the harvest season, Naomi instructed her to go down and to watch them as they threshed the barley and as they ate and drank. When they lie down, notice where Boaz is lying and go in and take his blanket and cover yourself with it. So after they were all asleep, Ruth slipped under the threshing floor, took the blanket of Boaz, and covered herself. When he awoke he said, "Who is there? What is going on?" She said, "I'm Ruth the Moabitess. , Cover me with your blanket." In effect saying, "Be my kinsman redeemer, take me as your wife."
- **Now it happened that Boaz was a brother of Elimelech who had died.** Elimelech's two sons are dead. His family name is going to perish in Israel unless someone, following the law raises up a child to keep the family name going. Ruth is actually asking Boaz to fulfill the law concerning the dead brother to raise up a child after his name, after his family.

- **Boaz was an older man, old enough to be Ruth's father;** being the brother of Elimelech who was her father-in-law. Yet, he had already been attracted to Ruth and was very excited about the possibility. However, there was another brother who was next in line, as far as order of kin, and he had the first opportunity, which he could not fulfill without messing up his own inheritance and marriage. So he took off his shoe and gave it to Boaz, passing on to him the right to marry Ruth.
- **Before the law in Deuteronomy, this was this custom.** So Judah orders Onan, the second son to go in and to bring forth an heir, raise up an heir for the dead brother Er, whom God had killed because of his wickedness.

Gen 38:9 But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother.

Gen 38:10 And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also.

- **The displeasure of God was not the emitting of the seed on the ground, but his failure to fulfill the obligation of raising up an heir for the dead brother.**
- **There are some that say, "Well, God punished him because he masturbated or he had coitus interruptus."** Not so. It is interesting that the Bible doesn't say anything about either of those things. Though it does definitely condemn fornication and adultery and other sexual sins, homosexuality. On this subject it is silent. On the subject of birth control the scriptures are silent. Therefore, we cannot make any rules or laws or regulations governing these things, nocturnal emissions or whatever, which are the same kind of a thing.
- **So both brothers have now been slain by the LORD.** These brothers were likely spiritually corrupted by their mother, probably raising them in the Canaanitish practices. Thus God was not going to allow them to be of the line of Judah from which the Christ would come. He eliminates them early.

Gen 38:11 Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house till my son Shelah is grown." For he said, "Lest he also die like his brothers." And Tamar went and dwelt in her father's house.

- **Go back home to your father's house.** Stay there as a widow until my son Shelah is grown. For he said, Lest he also die like his brothers. He was afraid now to give the last son to her. Two of his sons had been wiped out.

Gen 38:12 Now in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite.

- **Shua, Judah's wife was probably in her forties, dying at an early death.** Judah spent the time of mourning, but now he's going off for the time of sheep shearing, which is always party time. So they are heading to Timnath because that is where they were shearing the sheep. It was a time of just revelry and partying.

Gen 38:13 And it was told Tamar, saying, "Look, your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep."

- **Now getting back to Shelah, because we are not going to be hearing of him anymore till we get to Chronicles.** Shelah, the third son, did marry and was the father of the family of the Shelanites, which was one of the families of Israel. But he didn't marry Tamar as we will see here.

Gen 38:14 So she took off her widow's garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife.

- **Hearing that Judah was heading up to Timnah for the sheep-shearing thing,** she took off her widow's garments.
- **And covered herself with a veil, and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place, which was on the way to Timnath.** Now the Canaanitish religion and in their temple worship, every woman in the Canaanitish religion would have to for a period of time devote herself to the temple as a prostitute to raise funds for the temple. It was just a part of their religion, the ladies would have to spend a time in this business of being a temple prostitute. It was something that was quite accepted among the Canaanitish people. So Tamar, disguising herself with the attire of a temple prostitute, veiled herself so that Judah would not see her face. And she sat in the place on the way to Timnah.

Gen 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face.

- **She had the attire of the temple prostitutes.**

Gen 38:16 Then he turned to her by the way, and said, "Please let me come in to you"; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. So she said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?"

Gen 38:17 And he said, "I will send a young goat from the flock." So she said, "Will you give me a pledge till you send it?"

Gen 38:18 Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" So she said, "Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand." Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

Gen 38:19 So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood.

- The signet was the ring stamp that you would put into the wax to prove that the merchandise was yours. It was that signet ring, the stamp ring. Incidentally, this is where the custom has come of giving a ring to the bride. He is asking for a pledge. A guarantee that you are going to keep this vow. Show me that you really intend to guarantee it. Give me a ring. Give me a pledge." So he gave her a ring, from that the fellow puts the ring on the girl today, saying, "Wear this ring pledge of my love to you." It's a guarantee. I've made a covenant. I'm going to keep it. This is my guarantee by which I prove to you that I'm going to keep the covenant that we've made.
- Then he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She said, "I want your signet, the cord by which you wrap the signet, and the staff that is in your hand."
- So he gave them to her, and went into her, and she conceived by him. And she arose, laid aside her veil, and put back on the garments of her widowhood. She went back home to live with her dad.

Gen 38:20 And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her.

- And Judah sent a young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite. So he might get his signet and all back from the gal. Now he was probably embarrassed to come back himself, so he sends his friend back to take care of this. So he came back,

Gen 38:21 Then he asked the men of that place, saying, "Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?" And they said, "There was no harlot in this place."

- What are you talking about?

Gen 38:22 So he returned to Judah and said, "I cannot find her. Also, the men of the place said there was no harlot in this place."

Gen 38:23 Then Judah said, "Let her take them for herself, lest we be shamed; for I sent this young goat and you have not found her."

- I don't want what I've done to be found out. Forget it. For, I sent this young goat. I tried. I did my part. You didn't find her, so let it go.

Gen 38:24 And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry." So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"

- It is interesting that though he had sent her back home to live with her father, he still pretty much had control over her life. It was part of the culture in that he could order her to be put to death, because she was technically engaged to Shelah, the third son.
- Talking about women's rights, they didn't have many. They've come a long way. Why? Because of the Christian culture. It was not until Christianity that women were brought into a position of equality, recognized, and honored as equals through Christianity. (*Gal 3:28*) *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* It is only where the Christian influence has been strong in the world that the women have been lifted from that place of degradation where every culture has placed them and elevated them out of the pits and been made equal, respected, honored and protected by Christianity!
- Notice Judah's reaction! **Bring her out and let her be burned!** It is it amazing how terrible our sin looks on other people's! How that we can overlook things in our lives. And then to be unbelievably hard on someone else who falls into a similar sin. You see it over and over again in the body of Christ, where there is this overreaction, even to giving a consequence to a sin whenever there's that overreaction.

- **How frequently do I over react to others who have committed a similar sin to that which I have done? Do I ever hate my own sin as much as I hate the sin of others? Maybe even the same or lesser transgression than what I have done?**

Gen 38:25 When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, "By the man to whom these belong, I am with child." And she said, "Please determine whose these are—the signet and cord, and staff."

Gen 38:26 So Judah acknowledged them and said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." And he never knew her again.

- But he recognized that he was wrong, thus he excused her.

Gen 38:27 Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb.

Gen 38:28 And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."

Gen 38:29 Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, "How did you break through? This breach be upon you!" Therefore his name was called Perez.

Gen 38:30 Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah.

- Now it is interesting as we go to the New Testament, the gospel of Matthew, chapter 1, where Matthew gives to us the genealogy of Joseph, the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. That in giving to us the genealogy of Joseph that line from which Joseph sprang, the line came through none less than this Perez, the son of Judah and Tamar. Interesting!
- The next woman that we have in the line of Joseph in Matthew's gospel is Rahab, the harlot in Jericho.
- The next woman we have in the line of Christ is Ruth, the Moabitess of which we spoke earlier. And the last and the fourth that we have in Matthew's gospel in the line of Christ is Bathsheba, the wife of David who was formerly the wife of Uriah.
- Four women only named in Matthew's gospel. All of them were outside of the Jewish race, for, even Bathsheba was a Hittite. All of them with rather shady experiences in their past.
- It speaks of the grace of God! Four women, all outside the Jewish race are mentioned in Matthew chapter one. Though we may not have the most honorable past, yet God does not disqualify us or kick us out. He would rather wash us, cleanse us, forgive us, and then use us as trophies to His grace!
- **How truly thankful am I that He didn't disqualify me, but instead washed me! Cleansed me! Forgave me! Then to use me a trophy of His grace! Like Jacob said in chapter 33, "I have everything!" "Or I have it all!"**
- When you look at the genealogy of Jesus, where normally. In a Jewish genealogy, you don't even find Jewish women. You find Tamar the Canaanite, Rahab the prostitute, the Canaanite, Ruth the Moabitess. Bathsheba the wife of Uriah, the Hittite; all in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messianic line; God's grace, even in this failing. That is why this chapter is stuck in here. Because in the midst of the story of Joseph preserving the entire nation, the Lord is showing us that the Messianic line, in spite of human failure, is continuing because the covenant He had made was a covenant to Himself, that was unbreakable.
- Is the Messianic line encrypted in Genesis? Now this is something interesting. It appears that encrypted in Genesis chapter 38, in every 49 letters in Hebrew, in chronological order, are these names: Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David. The Messianic line! From these two, Judah and Tamar, come Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David!
- Now, if they are encrypted there in this chapter of Genesis! That is not a coincidence, but a demonstration of God's prophetic sovereignty! If you want to find out more, suggest going to Chuck Missler's website.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrfyMcwc2V8&list=PLRj8AJuzeJRwl4i9Wxk-ocUai1DqCWkb0&index=22>

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

Gen 39:1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there.

Gen 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

- *The LORD was with Joseph!* This is repeated four times! (*Gen 39:2,3,22, 23!*)

Gen 39:3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.

- **Am I (are we) sensing the LORD's presence in my life? What are some of the ways I see that, "The LORD was with me"?**

Gen 39:4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.

Gen 39:5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field.

- **God blessed Potiphar for Joseph's sake!** God's hand was upon this young man Joseph, as Joseph later recognized. Now what had been done by his brothers was a very treacherous thing. It is interesting that in all of these things we don't read of Joseph complaining or questioning God. He perhaps did, but there is no record of it. He suffered in silence. Even when Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him further on down this chapter, he doesn't answer in his own defense. You remember Jesus didn't answer His own defense either. *He opened not his mouth!*
- **Joseph, though, perhaps at this time did not realize it, came to realize in time to come** that this awful deed that his brothers had done was actually a part of the purpose and the plan of God for the preservation of the family.
- **One of our problems is our inability to see what is ahead!** We only see that which is near! This is really a problem in our Christian walk. For God is oftentimes working out processes that are not going to come to fruition until years down the road. We are so nearsighted, we can't see the full plan of God. We only see this portion before me today. Wait till you see the full picture and you'll look back and say, "Do you know that God was so good to me? What we thought were boils and we find that they were blessings. We find that God has a purpose.
- **There came the day when Joseph looked back and said, "Wow, all the way God's hand** was on me. You meant it for evil, but God intended it for good. God wanted to preserve the family, so He sent me ahead to prepare the place and all.
- **Even in this picture that we have tonight, the further trials and difficulties** that he will experience in this chapter, where is God? He is right there, plotting and planning the whole thing. But that doesn't seem fair. Well, God's got a purpose to work out. Let's keep on moving forward and we'll discover it.

Gen 39:6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

- **He didn't know about his bank account or anything else.** All I know is, "Hey, there's a good meal on the table. That's all I care about. This guy has taken care of everything."
- **Now Joseph was handsome, in form and appearance.** We're told concerning Saul that he was handsome. There wasn't a more handsome man in all of Israel at the time of Saul. Later on, we're told that David was handsome. Moses was a very beautiful child. In fact, there are a lot of apocryphal type of stories concerning Moses' beauty. Paul was ugly. I only say that to let you know that God doesn't just use beautiful people.

Gen 39:7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing (lustful) eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

- **That's not a new phrase.** That's been going on for a long time. *Lie with me.* Go to bed with me!

Gen 39:8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

- **Note something very important here,** regarding Joseph refusing Potiphar's wife! Joseph realized how far reaching that his committing this sin would be. He looked at it immediately, seeing the consequences of this temptation. If I would commit this sin, the consequences would reach all over the place. It would reach into your marriage. It would affect this man who's trusted me in all this? It would affect a lot more people than just you or me.

- **That is one of the most important keys in resisting temptation!** That is to think it through, especially in whatever area that is your most vulnerable, relating to temptation. We need to think ahead of what will be the consequences of my committing this sin? How far reaching it will go out? How will it affect my spouse, my family? How will it affect my witness, my reputation? You just need to stop and think! What a few minutes of carnal pleasure could cost us. It could change your whole life!
- **It seems, Joseph has decided in advance of what he would do!** As we read this passage, I never get the sense that Joseph, for the first time, is trying to figure out what he would do. I believe it's already a settled issue for him. That when this temptation comes and we see it's coming day after day after day. It's just a settled issue. He says no!
- **We need to settle it ahead of time, whatever is the dangerous temptation in our life.** That with my temptation, Lord, it is by your grace, how I'm going to respond to it. We get that settled every single morning. Praying our model prayer as we pray, and including. "Lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil." Pray! "LORD, don't allow me the opportunity to sin."
- **We know that for sin to occur there must be a joining of the desire to sin to coincide with the temptation!** If it does, yielding to the temptation comes!. I commit here as each day begins to deal with all the temptation Your way! It takes a daily commitment. We just need to stop and look and assess with the Lord what is really valuable in our life, and not to allow the devil to take that away from us.
- **How well am I handling temptations? Have I decided in advance what I will do, when being tempted? Do I begin every day by praying, LORD, don't allow me the opportunity to sin? How clear am I in stopping, looking and assessing with the LORD what is really valuable and important to me that can be taken away by the devil in my yielding to temptation?**

Gen 39:9 There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he (Potiphar) kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

- We'll look at three reasons here that Joseph gave in his refusing her.
- **First reason, Joseph says, "No" *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you.*** It would be just flat out wrong against Potiphar, who had put his entire trust in Joseph, to do this to another human being. Especially someone who's placed such trust in me, committing everything he had into my care!
- **Second reason - *How then can I do this great wickedness?* This is great wickedness. And it is today! Here are some recent statistics reflecting the state of our country with its great wickedness!**
 - ✓ 30% of those who call themselves evangelicals, divorce today! 30% of Evangelicals!
 - ✓ 50 to 60% in our culture, across the board. Divorce.
 - ✓ 43% of 18 year olds that grew up in church in America today, have had intercourse! 43 %.
 - ✓ 65% of kids in high school age, have had some sexual activity. What example does it set for the 11-13 year olds?
 - ✓ 23% of 12-13years olds think that it's acceptable for unmarried people to be sexually active with each other! Kids from church.
 - ✓ One marriage ends every 27 seconds in this country. Those are human feelings. Human emotions, rage, tears, pain! That is 120 per hour.
 - ✓ In the next hour, 46 girls under 19 will get an abortion!
 - ✓ In the next hour, while we're doing the study on Joseph, 600 children in America will be the victims of broken homes!
 - ✓ Tonight, 40% of the children in this country will go to bed in a home where there is no father present!
 - ✓ Every 24 hours, 1400 babies will be born to teen mothers!
 - ✓ Every 24 hours, 3400 born to unwed mothers!
 - ✓ Every 24 hours. 3700 abortions. That's one every 24 seconds. (Focht)
- **Third reason, and the most important! - *and sin against God?*** He is so faithful in warning us against sinning ahead of time! We need to stop and think about how good He has been to us! How

He just blesses us every day, giving us what we don't deserve! Look at the cross! Look what He has made our lives into! Redeeming us! Saving us, and glorifying us eternally! Look what we would throw away in yielding to the temptation.

- **Joseph was young, in his twenties. His sex drive was peaking.** He was far away from home and the influence of the home. Everyday Potiphar's wife was doing her best to arouse him, no doubt, with provocative kind of clothes, coming out in her fancy nightgowns. Provocative actions, but even more than that, open suggestions that we just have sex together. A powerful, powerful temptation for a young man far from home, with his sex drive peaking, and Potiphar's wife every day seeking to arouse his passions, but Joseph did not yield! He successfully resisted this powerful temptation!
- **The Bible tells us that temptation is something that is common to all of us.** We each have, in our own flesh, those areas of weakness and in this we are not all the same. There are some people who may never be tempted in a sexual way, but are tempted to cheat, or to drink, or to lie, or to steal, or to gamble, but temptation is all around us.
- **Joseph had a keen consciousness towards sin.** *How then can I do this great wickedness?* And then he realized **that all sin is against God.** You may rationalize in your mind what you have done to another person. You may say, "Well, he had it coming. He deserved it. I know I cheated him, but look how many people he's cheated." You may rationalize it. Remember, your sin was against God, not against man. God is the one you are going to answer to! You may think you got by with it, but God saw it.
- **David said, (Psa 51:4a) Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight—** I thought nobody could see in my bedroom. I sent Bathsheba home after it was dark. I got rid of Uriah. Nobody knew! But the prophet of God came and nailed him and he realized that God saw him. *Against You have I sinned. I did this great evil in Your sight."* All sin is done in the sight of God!
- **With this awareness: I am something special! I am God's child, the man is trusting in me! Sin** is a great wickedness and sin is against God! Joseph was able to thwart her advances and to stand up against them. But day after day after day here she would come trying to excite him. Finally one day she saw to it that all of the servants were out of the house. She knew Joseph was coming and she was ready. She grabbed hold of him and started to take off his garment. She says, "Come on, you're going to lie with me." Joseph scrambled free. She had a good hold on his garments, but he just left it in her hand and ran out of the house. In the last resort when everything else has failed and **you think you are going to slip and this is it, run!**
- **Paul said in (2Ti 2:22) Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.** "Flee youthful lusts," run from them. If you recognize that you are in danger, if you feel, "Hey, I am weak. I don't know if I can handle this. Run! Get out of there! Don't stick around to find out. Flee!"
- **Considering the cross, all that He has done for me, the price He paid for my sin, How could I ever sin against Him?**

Gen 39:10 So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her.

Gen 39:11 But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

Gen 39:12 that she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

Gen 39:13 And so it was, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and fled outside,

Gen 39:14 that she called to the men of her house and spoke to them, saying, "See, he has brought in to us a Hebrew to mock us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice.

Gen 39:15 And it happened, when he heard that I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me, and fled and went outside."

- You are going to tell this vicious lie... "hell hath no fury like a woman's scorn," as Joseph found out. Here is the scorned woman. And now I am going to get him.

Gen 39:16 So she kept his garment with her until his master came home.

Gen 39:17 Then she spoke to him with words like these, saying, "The Hebrew servant whom you brought to us came in to me to mock me;

Gen 39:18 so it happened, as I lifted my voice and cried out, that he left his garment with me and fled outside."

Gen 39:19 So it was, when his master heard the words which his wife spoke to him, saying, "Your servant did to me after this manner," that his anger was aroused.

- It's interesting that it doesn't say his anger was aroused towards Joseph. He was just angry. He could have been angry with his wife. It could be that he knew that she had been flirting and messing around. His anger was aroused.

Gen 39:20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison.

- **The plot thickens. It gets darker. First he is sold by his brothers as a slave, then he has to go through** the pressure of this woman trying to seduce him. Now she files these trumped-up false charges and he is sitting in jail in Egypt! He is far from his home, far from his family, far from the love, alone, accused as a rapist or attempted rapist, sitting in prison! "God, where are You?" But we don't find Joseph speaking up in his own defense! He doesn't answer the charge. He doesn't say she is a liar and put her down in front of her husband, **but he submits to the whole thing!** An amazing person this man, Joseph.
- **The only thing that you can deduce is that he was so totally committed to God** realizing, how can I? I am God's child. I belong to God, and was so committed to that fact that he was God's that he realized that all things work together for good even though this seems to be the most horrible thing that can happen to a young man in his twenties. It would be like being thrown in jail in Mexico where you have no appeal. You have no friends. You have no support. God, what is going on?
- **What does Joseph do?** He makes the best of it.
- **Do I really fully realize and act out in my life, that I am really God's child? That I am so special, being purchased, redeemed, set apart by and for Him?**

Gen 39:21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

- *And the LORD was with Joseph, even in prison, He showed him mercy.* What kind of mercy is that?
- *The LORD gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. He was just such an honest, diligent, good person that everywhere he went, people liked him. Just a likeable fellow.*

Gen 39:22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing.

- He put Joseph as the manager of the prison. He began to run the institution. Joseph was in charge of everything.

Gen 39:23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper.

- **The Lord can be with us even in the most adverse circumstances** and God can cause us to prosper in the most miserable conditions! Notice the perfecting experience being in authority!
- **Now as we will find out next week, God's hand is in all this whole imprisonment.** It's a part of God's long-range plan. What if Joseph had said, "This is enough. I am through. I'm in charge of this place. I'm a trustee," and he escaped out of that thing and headed home? He could have fouled up God's whole plan by jumping out at this point.
- **I wonder how many times we foul up God's plan by bailing out when the pressure is on.** I waited for two whole weeks! I can't just spend my life waiting on God to do something." Realize Joseph spent years in this prison. Yet, God is working! Even in the experience, God's hand is on him. But in the overall sense God is working out such a fantastic program and in your life God is working.
- **Does my life demonstrate perseverance in doing God's will in my life or do I bailout too soon? Do I ever thwart God's plan by quitting?**
- **Maybe you are going through some real heavy water, deep water right now,** some real heavy experiences. Maybe you can't understand your circumstances. It may look like the roof is collapsing, but if you're a child of God, all things are working together for good. If you will just commit your ways unto God, you're going to find that God is going to bring you forth in such victory, in such glory that you can't believe it! Father, we just thank You tonight for Your work in our lives.
- **LORD help us that we might be patient as You work out the full cycle,** that we might wait upon You to see Your ultimate plan. And Lord, help us in this world in which we live where temptation is

on every corner, that we might stand against the wiles of the devil. That we will resist the temptations and solicitations to evil and to sin and that we might, if necessary, flee, run from that place of temptation.

SUMMARY:

- **How frequently do I over react to others who have committed a similar sin to that which I have done? Do I ever hate my own sin as much as I hate the sin of others?** (Gen 38:24d) *So Judah said, "Bring her out and let her be burned!"*
- **How truly thankful am I the He didn't disqualify me, but instead washed me! Cleansed me! Forgive me! Then to use me a trophy of His grace!** Four women, all outside the Jewish race are mentioned in Matthew chapter one. It speaks of the grace of God. He does not disqualify us! He would rather wash us, cleanse us, forgive us, and then use us as trophies to His grace.
- **Am I (are we) sensing the LORD's presence in my life? What are some of the ways I see that, "The LORD was with me"?** (Gen 39:3) *And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand.*
- **How well am I handling temptations? Have I decided in advance what I will do, when being tempted? Do I begin every day by praying, LORD, don't allow me the opportunity to sin? How clear am I in stopping, looking and assessing with the LORD what is really valuable and important to me that can be taken away by the devil in my yielding to temptation?** (Gen 39:8) *But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.*
- **Do I really fully realize and act out in my life, that I am really God's child? That I am so special, being purchased, redeemed, set apart by and for Him?**
- **Considering the cross, all that He has done for me, the price He paid for my sin, How could I ever sin against Him?** (Gen 39:9c) *There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*

CLOSING SONG

THE BLESSING Kari Jobe (4:33/4:36)

The Lord bless you And keep you Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace Amen, amen, amen Amen, amen, amen
The Lord bless you And keep you Make His face shine upon you And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace
Amen, amen, amen (we sing, we sing) Amen, amen, amen
May His favor be upon you And a thousand generations And your family and your children
And their children, and their children May His favor be upon you And a thousand generations
And your family and your children And **their children, and their children**
May His presence go before you And behind you, and beside you All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you In the morning, in the evening In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing He is for you, He is for you He is for you, He is for you
He is for you, He is for you He is for you, He is for you (I know, I know)
Amen, amen, amen Amen, amen, amen
May His presence go before you And behind you, and beside you All around you, and within you
He is with you, He is with you In the morning, in the evening In your coming, and your going
In your weeping, and rejoicing He is for you!

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study Genesis Chapters 40 & 41!