# Temptations And Some Harsh Realities

**David Banning** · Genesis 39:1–12 · Series: **Christian Living (Questions)**

## INTRODUCTION

- Every one of us of accountable age has found ourselves faced with moments like this when we were confronted with the temptation to do something that we knew was against God's will for us.
- Brethren, as we strive to live for Jesus Christ, we are engaged in an ongoing battle with temptation.
- Your adversary, the devil, he says, prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. There's our enemy.

## 1 Satan Will Prey Upon Our Vulnerabilities

**Genesis 39:10–11; 1 Peter 5:8**

- Satan, in this battle with temptation, will prey upon our vulnerabilities.
- Joseph was a young man when he was forced to deal with this temptation.
- When we're vulnerable, he doesn't back off. He attacks.
- To defeat him, we need to be careful that we don't use our circumstances as an excuse for sin.
- In spite of all the adversity Joseph faced, he never used his circumstances as an excuse to do the wrong thing.

## 2 Satan Will Use Our Blessings to Curse Us

**Genesis 39:4; Genesis 39:6**

- Satan will use our blessings to curse us if we let him.
- Joseph had been blessed with the privilege of becoming Potiphar's right hand man.
- Is it wrong to be good looking? No. Can it be a problem that can curse us?
- He'll get us so focused and so consumed on having wealth and having more things that all of our energies and our resources will be spent up in the pursuit of that.
- He'll get us so comfortable and so satisfied with things as they are that we'll get lazy about God's work.

## 3 Temptation Must Be Refused

**Genesis 39:7–9; 2 Samuel 11**

- The third thing we really need to learn from this story is that temptation must be refused.
- When she said in verse 7, lie with me, the response of Joseph was, but he refused.
- Sometimes what gets us into trouble with temptation is we stop and think about it too long.
- How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?
- We need to defeat temptation by remembering that we're not living for ourselves. But we're living for our God.

## 4 When We Do Right, Sometimes We Suffer

- When we resist temptation and we stand up and we do what's right, sometimes we're persecuted for that choice.
- Because he did the right thing, he suffered. He was falsely accused and cast into prison.
- Sometimes for you and I in our battles with temptation, the rewards of righteousness are not immediate. In fact, sometimes we're going to suffer for it.
- If you insist on practicing honesty and being a person of integrity on your job, your boss may not like you.

## 5 Resisting Will Always Pay Off in the End

**Galatians 6:9**

- The last thing we need to say about the battle with temptation tonight is that resisting will always pay off in the end.
- He suffered at the moment. But reaped great rewards in the end.
- We may have to take some difficult and courageous stands at the moment for what is right, but over the long haul, we'll be glad that we did.
- Do not lose heart in doing good. For in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

### THE CHALLENGE

**Don't let him win. Don't go out those doors tonight unprepared to meet your God. Defeat the devil. Make your life right with God.**

### MY NOTES