

Joseph in Potiphar's House

Manifestation of Good Family Training


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What We Will Learn

- Joseph's reputation in Potiphar's house
 - Child of God
 - Helped others
 - Successful
- His reputation was built at home through family training
- Based on Genesis 39:1–20

Joseph's Reputation at Potiphar's House

- Potiphar, Captain of Pharaoh's Guard
- Bought Joseph from Ishmaelite merchants
- Joseph distinguished himself as involved and successful
- Genesis 39:1–4



Genesis 39 (NIV)

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did,


4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

Joseph's Reputation cont'd

- Potiphar saw that the Lord was with him and gave him success in everything he did
- He did things that mattered to people
- Committed to providing for needs
- Persevered until he succeeded
- People believed that God was with him

In Charge of Potiphar's Household

- Potiphar placed Joseph in charge of his household
- Everything he placed in Joseph's care prospered
- He did not concern himself with things he placed under Joseph
- Genesis 39:5–6




Genesis 39 (NIV)

5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.

6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,

Temptation through Potiphar's Wife

- Potiphar's wife propositioned Joseph to go to bed with her
- Joseph was handsome and successful
- Irresistible to Potiphar's wife
- Joseph refused the proposition
- Genesis 39:7–10



Genesis 39 (NIV)

7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"


8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.

9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

One Moment of Carelessness

- Joseph was careless on one occasion
- Alone with the lady in his master's house
- Lady attacked him, tried to force him into bed with her
- He escaped but left his jacket
- Genesis 39:11–12




Genesis 39 (NIV)

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.

12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

Framed and Jailed

- Potiphar's wife used the jacket to frame Joseph
- She convinced her husband that Joseph tried to force himself on her
- Potiphar put Joseph in jail
- Genesis 39:13–20




Genesis 39 (NIV)

13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,

14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.

15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."



Genesis 39 (NIV)

16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.

17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.

18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger.

20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

How Joseph Built His Reputation

- Lived at home for 17 years before he arrived at Potiphar's house
- Product of good family training
- Recall father Jacob's vow at Bethel
- If the Lord will provide for my basic needs
- Then, the Lord will be my God

Building Joseph's Reputation cont'd

- God blessed Jacob abundantly in Paddan Aram
- He went there empty-handed
- He returned a big family
- Owner of large flock of farm animals
- Men servants and maid servants

Building Joseph's Reputation cont'd

- Israel developed good relationship with God
- Reverence to God
 - Through prayer
 - Worship
 - Interaction with people
- Passed on this attitude to his children

Building Joseph's Reputation cont'd

- Israel was especially close to Joseph, therefore gave him special attention
- Reverence to God
- Kind to people
- Sensitive to people's needs
- Joseph's family training manifested at Potiphar's house

Other Lessons from Joseph's Reputation

- God gives you success in **things you do**
- Be attentive to needs
- Organize resources to provide for needs
- Stay purposefully busy even in play
- Sleep only when world around you sleeps
- Stay awake and busy at other times
- Face responsibility, don't dodge it

Lessons about Potiphar

- Potiphar judgment over Joseph was unjust
- Illustrates unconditional trust in wife
- Shows cost of trusting someone that can take undue advantage of the trust
- Devil used Potiphar's wife and his trust in her to destroy their relationship with Joseph
- The Devil struck when the relationship appeared to be working well