

(Genesis 39)
“Faith & Obedience”

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled this message: **“Trials, Temptation, & Testing”**
 - (Genesis 39) NKJV

~ INTRO ~

OK...

- As we move forward in the unfolding story of the Bible...
 - Today we come to a serious moment in the life of Joseph.

WE GET TO PEAK INTO A LIFE...

- That's being perfected for a bigger purpose.
 - And it's... a beautiful reminder of how gracious & caring God is!

(Luke 12:7) NLT

HERE'S WHAT WE CAN LEARN TODAY:

IDEA #1 – TRIALS:

READ (vv.1-7)

THE MORE I READ THE BIBLE...

- The more I can see that God has a special plan...
 - For each of His kids.

(vv.2-3)

- God was with Joseph in the middle of this season...
 - When strange things & hard times were happening to him.

YET... (v.4) *overseer...*

- Joseph's life reminds us... of how God wants us to handle our lives.
 - He wants each of us to be faithful overseers...
 - Of the life we've been given.

(1 Cor. 4:2) NET

“... what is sought in stewards is that one be found faithful.”

JOSEPH...

- Was still being prepared for his life's calling.

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- BUT... the testing in bad circumstances forged into his soul...
 - An unrelenting faithfulness!

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED GOD FOR GROWTH?

- I often make request in my life...
 - For more wisdom to lead;
 - More faithfulness to carry out the mission;
 - And more endurance so I don't give up.
- And it seems like I'm routinely enveloped with struggles.

BUT...

- As I consider the word...
 - I see that God is answering my prayers.

HERE'S WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN OUR LIVES...

- 1) *Perseverance* (Romans 5:3) NLT
- 2) *Maturity* (James 1:4) NIV
- 3) *Reward* (James 1:12) NKJV

IDEA #2 – TEMPTATION:

READ (vv.7-10)

JOSEPH...

- Is an attractive man in his late 20's...
 - And his boss's wife was throwing herself at him.

NOW...

- What we don't read here...
 - Is the custom of the day.
- Potiphar (Joseph's boss) was one of Pharaoh's top officers.
 - And in those days Kings would require their top officials...
 - To be (OR) become eunuchs.
 - (Primarily the guards over the royal harem.)

IF THIS WAS THE CASE HERE...

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- We have a wife starved for love & sexual affection...
 - Because her husband gave himself entirely to work.
 - (This is a mistake!!!)

c.p. (Matt.19:12) NKJV

SOME PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- a) My environment does not determine my state of mind. (Joseph)
- b) For a Christian in a bad marriage – misery is optional. (Wife)
- c) I cannot change my spouse, but I can influence them. (Married)
- d) My beliefs affect my actions (defeated, pessimistic, nagging). (Christian)
- e) Being verbally critical of your spouse, you will put them thru...
 - A slow painful death until the relationship is destroyed. (Warning)

TRUTH SAYS...

- Our thoughts & actions are to be governed by God (Phil 4:8-9) NLT...
 - Regardless of our circumstances!

THIS IS NOT ALWAYS EASY...

- But it is God’s aim for your life.

IDEA #3 –TEST:

READ (vv.11-23)

THE FINAL LESSON FOR US...

- Staying faithful even when accused of wrong doing.

JOSEPH...

- Has been dealt **a bad hand** for about 10-years at this point.
 - (Family, boss, fellow servants, everyone jacked him).

IT SEEMED... THAT GOD DIDN’T SEE (OR) DIDN’T CARE.

- Yet Joseph remained faithful.

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AND THAT’S HOW I WANT TO CLOSE TONIGHT...

- Stay faithful... God sees & cares... AND soon you will be rewarded!

~ *IN CLOSING* ~

LET’S TAKE A FEW MINUTES...

- To remember... that God will get us thru the rough.

AT THE COMMUNION TABLE...

- Steer your heart back to JESUS.

AMEN!