

Joseph and Temptation

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt and Potiphar, an Egyptian official bought him. When Potiphar saw that the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did, Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and entrusted everything he owned to his care - and the Lord blessed the household because of Joseph. Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care and he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 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. 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?" And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 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. (Gen 39)

(1) Why do you think the temptation was really tough to handle?

(2) What helped Joseph to have victory over temptation?

(3) What did Joseph do when he was tempted?

David and Temptation

In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. Then she went back home. The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." (2 Samuel 11)

(1) Why do you think the temptation was really tough to handle?

(2) What helped David get defeated by temptation?

(3) What did David do when he was tempted?