

↪ This is now our third time to talk about the touchy subject of immorality. Paul gave us numerous reasons to flee it. Last time we began taking a look at two individuals and how they handled sexual temptation, one fell, and one who fled. Joseph of the Old Testament was the one who fled, and his story is encouraging study because it shows us that we can stand up to temptation with God's help and make it through. Joseph's past was a problem and made his temptation all the more powerful. Think of the excuses he could have given, "God let this happen to me, what do I owe God?" // "No one every cared about me and now here's a woman showing me affection." // "Sexual immorality is the order of the day in Egypt anyways." // "I didn't go looking for trouble, she came looking for me." // "I'm a slave, I have to do what she says." // "Who will ever know?" He could have made a lot of excuses, but he didn't. He could have blamed his upbringing and the poor examples that he was shown, but he didn't. People are never to blame for our decisions, we are to blame for our own decisions. Part of overcoming sin is taking personal ownership of your own decisions and responsibility. If we play the blame game we will not be able to stand against temptation.

1. Joseph's past sure didn't make any easier on him, so how did he make it through?

- ✓ His situation was a passionate one, but Joseph's convictions were more passionate. There are at least four keys to his convictions that we need to learn from him that can help us in our own temptation.
 - 1) Joseph had a proper view of sin Genesis 39:9. He calls it what it is, he doesn't call it an affair, or a romantic interlude; he calls a "wicked thing." It will help us if we will call it what it actually is.
 - 2) Joseph had proper view of God, Genesis 39:9. Sin is first and foremost is an act against God. "No one will see," God will see! John Wesley prayed, "God give me 100 men who hate nothing but sin and fear nothing, but God and I'll take England for the Gospel." Joseph feared God and hated sin.
 - 3) Joseph had a proper view of others, Genesis 39:8-9. He knew the meaning of loyalty. Immorality is an awful violation of trust to our spouse of future spouse.
 - 4) Joseph had a proper view of himself Genesis 39:12, he ran! Why didn't he just try to talk it out or hear her argument? Because he doesn't trust himself! Running from sin may not seem very courageous but it is very smart. Joseph paid a high price for his purity, Psalm 105:18. Is there too high of a price for purity? Psalm 105:19-21, a high price but a high reward came with it. Reward comes with obedience not just knowing the right thing. Better not to know it than to know it and not do it.

Do you have proper view of sin? God? other? Yourself? Are you making excuses or blaming someone else for your sin? Are you excusing yourself because of a troubled past? Maybe all is well; do you have a plan to escape temptation? Do you have a game plan? To not plan is to plan to fail. We need to be proactive when it comes to temptation and not reactive.
