

Title: *The Way of Prosperity (Part 2)*

Text: Genesis 39:7-23

(,,) Starting with Vs 7 we run into opposition. like you can't believe. Or, can you? Oh, yes, you can believe it alright. You just read it. The opposition come in like a storm. Did you know that when you really start living for Jesus that Satan is after you? He would like to eat you alive. He is after you.

Did you know that when you start living for God you will find that the old sin nature is trying to get a whole of you like never before?

Did you know that when you start living for Christ the world will become more pressing, and more demanding then you have ever dreamed possible?

A lot of us float along and we don't even know what the battle is all about. Listen, Paul wrote that we war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. You start living for God and you are going to run n into a big conflict. A big battle. a big struggle. between God and Satan. You are going to experience something of what it is all about. Listen, Joseph just because of all these blessings in his life, still had problems. He had opposition. He had temptations like you can't believe.

There are two things that I would like to share with you in regards to this opposition.

(1) Number one, the temptation in his life was constant and strong. It didn't let up. The temptation in his life was constant and strong. Notice, please, Vs 7. "And it came about after these events that his master's wife looked with desire at Joseph." That is where it all starts. "And she said, lie with me."

Now, you have to hand it to this woman. She wasn't bashful at all. She just walked up to him and said.. "Let's go to bed."

Now, Joseph resisted. And we might say.. "Fine, that is the end of it." No Way.. Let's read a little further in our story. Let's see what happens.

Vs 10.. "And it came about as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did not listen to her to lie beside her, or be with her."

Listen, this temptation was strong and constant in his life. You say, "I resisted temptation, yesterday, now I am done with it. Right? Wrong!! God will bring it again to you and again and again. You say, WHY? Because he wants to mature us. That is why. He knows that we cannot be mature without testings. Without temptation. And the temptation was strong. Day after day after day. Can you imagine what it was like? Joseph had authority over the entire household. Everything..except one thing. That woman. And every day that woman came to him. "Joseph! I want to go to bed with you! Can you imagine what that was like?

Constant...strong in his life. Just like it is in our life. The temptation may be different or the same.

The Bible says in I Cor. 10:13 that there is no temptation taken you that is not what? Common to man.

A fellow said to me once that he didn't have a certain temptation in his life. He named it. And I said "well there is one of two things true about you." He said, what is that? I said you are either lying or you are not a man.

Later on he went on to confess that it was his problem. Listen, who do we think that we are kidding. The Bible teaches that opposition..that temptation is going to come.

Now, we want to be prosperous people, let's learn the secrets of it. Let's find out what the secret is. This thing was powerful in Joseph's life. And that wasn't the end of it, as you well know.

Vs 11 and 12. He is all along in the house. No one else is there. And Vs 12 says that she "caught him by his garment saying, Lie with me."

Now, I don't know if this woman was a bruser or not. Or, how big she was. But the Bible says that she caught awhole of his garment. This woman was down right serious about this matter.

Now, folks at this point it is important to understand the work of the old sin nature. That was no time to set down with this woman and have a little counseling session. That was no time to try and treason wth her. That is not what the Bible teaches.

Listen, the temptations and testings in our lives is going to be constant and strong and powerful. And we are facing enemies.

(2) But, I would like you to notice in the second place about opposition the wonderful testimony that can happen in the midst of temptation. What kind of testimony can a christian really have in the midst of all this temptation? Three things I would like to share with you.

(1) Vs 8..The Bible says that "he refused this woman." And he refused her for two reasons. What were they.

(1) Number one, he didn't want to go against his master. He understood the chain of command. He knew that he owed obedience unto his master. Over the entire household he had complete charge. He could make any decision he wanted to make. Complete control with the ~~acceptance of/one/~~ acception of one thing. His master's wife. He understood the chain of command. He understood what obedience was all about. That God had placed him under this man's authority. He had to subject himself to the master. And he refused to sin against his master.

But, more important than that. He refused this woman because it would have been a sin against God. Look at the end of Vs 9.."How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God."

Joseph knew that adultery was sin against God. Not against that woman or that master. But against God.

Do you know that when the prodigal son came to himself. He realized that he had not only sinned against his father. But, he said, "I have sinned against heaven and thee oh Father." So, he refused.

(2) Secondly, in regards to his testimony. He resisted even listening to this woman. Now, this is important. Notice Vs 10.."And it came about as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did..not...listen..to her to lie beside her, or be with her."

I have heard young people say, "Pastor, I couldn't help myself. The temptation was to great. There was nothing I could do."

Listen, that excuse will not work with God. We have no one to blame but ourselves. The Bible says that he refused to listen to that woman. Day after day she would talk to him and tempt him. But, he refused to listen to her.

Dear friends, what we listen to starts us down the road. What we look at starts us down the road. And we don't resist. Result: we fall and wonder why. (3) The third thing. He ran away when it got tough. Vs 12 says.. "she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and fled." I like that. He didn't even go back and say, "would you please give me my garments back?" NO..That outer tunic that she grasped. He just left it.

Now, he didn't run out of there with no clothes on. Don't get the wrong idea. The outer tunic she grasped a whole of. And he just left it. And he ran away. You know the Bible says, "Flee youthful lust." That is what it says. Sometimes that means just leave...Man, get out of there. Run away.

A high school kid reading PLAYBOY magazine said to me when I ask him why he was reading that trash, said: "I just want to know what I am suppose to resist."

Now, we laugh at that. But, that is tragic. We go through the little mental games of justifying a lot of things, dear friends. OH, YES WE DO. The world comes in and programs us. They keep filtering us with ideas and thoughts and we keep compromising all the way down the line...our families, our homes, everything. We play these mental games with a lot of things to justify our desires.

Joseph ran away. He got out of there. And the Bible tells us to get out of there. FLEE..Run away from it.

Now, you would think. Joseph you are a wonderful guy. We praise God for you. Now, surely God is just going to bless your life. YES, HE IS. But, it is not in the way that you think. Do you know what happened? The woman tells on him. She is hurt. Her pride is hurt. And she begins her lies by blaming her husband. Did you notice that in Vs 17. "The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us." It is your fault. You brought him here. Now, he has made sport of me. And she accuses him. Misrepresents him. False accusations.

All the things our Lord told us would come to every christian. All these things happen to him. And he lands in jail. And question who is his boss. The chief executionery. Can you imagine what was going through Joseph's mind? AH, Lord, I want to talk to you a little bit about this prosperity." "I mean, Lord, I resisted the temptation. Cann't you give me a break?" "Lord, why am I here?"

Don't you know that even after great victories, the Devil comes in like a great storm? Discouragements comes. And we start feeling sorry for ourselves And like Elijah we cry out, "I am the only one left who seems to be living for the Lord."

And the Lord said, "Listen, there are 7 thousand prophets serving me. Why are you feeling sorry for yourself. Get up, Elijay, and start moving.

You know what? I have found in my life that it is so easy to get discouraged after victory. It is so easy. And the devil comes in and discourage you. He will depress you. He will put you down. And you will start dwelling on all the bad circumstances.

And do you know what God will do? And you will not even see God in this. But, God will bring a little heavy test upon you at that point. Some little test. You know, you have had a great victory...PRAISE THE LORD...Wasn't that wonderful. You really licked the problem. You handled it with spiritual maturit PRAISE GOD. The very next day, some little problem. Some little irriation. You know, you get up in the morrowing and stub your toe. YOU go to work and someone jumps all over your case. The boss gets mad at you for some stupid little thing. Hay! I just had a great victory. What is going on?

Listen, don't you know that God is trying to make us beautiful? He is trying to mature us. He is trying to work in our lives to make us something special. Because God wants us to have HIS PROSPERITY. NOT THE WORLDS KIND. His is in the midst of trouble.

And here Joseph is..seating in that jail accused of adultary with the executioneries wife. He is surely facing death. And we might say, "All is hopeless."

() OH, NO. NO WAY. This is the wonderful outcome of this story. And I would like to share with you four things about this wonderful outcome to this story. This is found in verses 21 to 23 and this is beautiful. This is great.

And the very first word in Vs 21 is the most important word. WHAT IS IT? Vs 21.. "BUT". A word of contrast. BUT..THE..LORD..WAS ..WITH..JOSEPH."

(1) The first thing we want to know about the outcome of all of this is that the Lord was still with him. The Lord hadn't left him. Back in Vs 2.. "The Lord was with Joseph." Now, in Vs 21, "The Lord was with Joseph."

Everything looked bad. But GOD WAS THERE. WORD OF CONTRAST. Look at that situation. Joseph in jail. It looks hopeless. NO! God was with Joseph. PRAISE THE LORD. He will never leave us. Nor, forsake us.

Then we read in Psalms 56:8 "Thou hast taken account of my wanderings. And put my tears in Thy bottle. This I know that God is for me."

Isn't that great? That verse always encourages me. God is for me. He knows my wanderings. He knows my tears. God is for me.

(2) Secondly, we read in Vs 21 "the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. Dear friends, this is one of the most beautiful phrase in chapter 39 in relationship to the story. And I don't want you to miss it. The point..the kindness of God holds back from us what we really deserve. Do you see the point of that in this story.

The Word Kindness is The Word for "Mercy: What Does "Mercy" mean

A lot of people look at Joseph and they exalt Joseph. And they say, "Joseph wasn't Joseph a fine example of morality. And look how he stood firm."

Ohm No..Do you know what God's message is? Joseph you deserve to die. Listen, Joseph had just as much of the old sin nature as you and I. Joseph had just as much temptation in that moment to fail as anyone of us has.

What was the key? God held back from him that which he really deserved. Joseph could set there and say, "I was misrepresented. I was falsely accused. I was slandered. God you must strighten this out."

And God comes and says, "Listen, it is only because of my kindness that I am wholing back any trail from you at all. Any judgment. Any punishment. Because it is my kindness that is acting for you.

Mercy
Mercy

Do you know what the Bible says about all of us? We are condemned already. Because we don't believe on Jesus Christ. Condemned already. We deserve God's judgment. How many lies does it take to make a liar? Just one. "He who offends in one point is guilty of the whole law," says James 2:10. We deserve punishment. We deserve to die.

But, God's ^{Mercy} kindness holds it back. The Bible says "the wrath of God is abiding on those who have not received Christ." It is just setting there. We deserve God's judgment.

But, it is God's wonderful kindness which holds it back.

(3) Third, I notice in Vs 21 that it says that he "gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer." The word "favor" is the word for "grace." And here I notice that He gave it to him.

"Grace" is that which God give to me, which I do not deserve. Now, put the two together. "MERCY" is holding back from Joseph that which he really deserves. And "GRACE" is given to him that which he doesn't deserve at all. What a beautiful thing.

You see, God's grace gives to you forgiveness of sin. And you don't deserve it. God's grace gives to us eternal life. And we don't deserve it. And God's mercy keeps back the judgement of God which we do deserve.

(4) And number four, the last phrase of Vs 23. It says that because the Lord was with him.. "and whatever he did, the Lord made to prosper."

God was behind this whole thing. Will you turn to Psalms 105. This is a divine commentary on this chapter. Psalm 105 verses 16 to 22. God tells you what he thinks about that whole situation. Psalms 105 verses 16 to 22.

You know, the Bible tells us constantly about being prosperous. Like Psalms 1 where it says "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. His delight is in the law of the Lord. And in His law he meditates day and night." "And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, And whatever he does, he will prosper.

Joseph 1:8 tells us to hide the Word of God in our hearts. To mediate on it. And whatever we do we shall prosper.

God will make our way prosper. Why? Because of his word. It is a tremendous thing.

Will look at what he thinks about that story in Genesis 39. Psalms 105 verse 16 says.. "And He"... "He" is referring to God. "And He called for a famine upon the land. He broke the whole staff of bread." WHY? Because He wanted them to go down into Egypt. That is why. That is how they got there.

Now, watch this verse. Vs 17.. "He sent a man before them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave."

Hay! weight a minute. I though his bothers sold him into slavery? NO!.. Not his brothers. God did. God caused it all. And he sent a man down into Egypt ahead of time, to prepare the way for the rest of the Jews that were coming. He was going to spare his people from the famine. He didn't want them to go hunger. So, he sent Joseph down there into Egypt. All a part of God's plan

Look at Vs 18. Something you learn that is not found in Genesis. "They afflicted his feet with fetters, He himself was laid in irons:"

Wonderful guys..those brothers.

Vs 19..Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him."

What was going on in Genesis 39? The word of the Lord was testing Joseph.

Vs 20.. "The King sent and released him, The ruler of peoples, and set him free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler over all his possessions, To imprison his princes at will, that he might teach his elders wisdom."

Man, I tell you. The way God exalted that man, Joseph, it is thrilling. Was that because Joseph was such a wonderful person?...NOWAY. God was behind it, completely. That story is the story of God.. And he can do the same in your life. You must look to God. It is like the person who wants to be saved. And he tries his best to do things for God. Hoping that some how God will let him into heaven. That is not what the story is all about. It is not about you. And what you can do.

It is about what God has done. And a person goes to heaven ..not because of what he or she has done..but because he believeas what God has done. That God has already paid for all his sins.

Aren't you glad that you serve a God like that? Whatever he did the Lord made it to prosper.

LET US PRAY