

Genesis 39.6-23

Pleasing the Boss

1. The Boss you Work For

ALL Xtians have DIVINE CALLING to Serve the Lord Jesus Christ

For MOST Xtians Calling lived out in MARKETPLACE / WORKPLACE

Most Xtians > Church ONE Day Week – Workplace – MOST of their Week

More than just JOB – Your JERUSALEM of KINGDOM Service

EARTHLY Boss sees U just Worker, Heavenly FATHER calls U WITNESS

2nd Sunday of Every Month – Faith@Work Meeting here at ZGC

Work is one of the biggest pain points in our culture.---we as the people of faith can work with purpose, partnering with God in his love and care for the world, we can admit our mistakes more readily because we experience God's grace, we can love others and serve them because we've been loved and served, we can find hope that helps us persevere because we believe in his kingdom that will end all brokenness and wipe away every tear... the world needs to know how faith and the gospel of Jesus Christ can fix what's broken. Katherine Alsdorf

a. Authorized – Step back into STORY of Joseph, see him ON THE JOB

vs. 1,6 Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him...he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate

Like 30 MILLION people in World TODAY – Joseph was SLAVE 4000 yrs ago

But by God's Grace > SLAVE who had SOFT LANDING > METEORIC Rise!

Head STEWARD in PRESTIGIOUS Home in Egypt – Captain Pharaoh's Guard

vs. 8,9 “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me...”

b. Assaulted – Only thing JOSEPH had NO Power Over was Potiphar’s WIFE vs. 6 Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

ONLY MAN the Bible calls HANDSOME – Too Bad Don’t have PICTURE!



v. 7 after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, “Lie with me”

This is NOT a STORY of ROMANCE it is an ASSAULT in the Workplace
Never told Joseph is ATTRACTED – Don’t know HOW She Looks! Or Name!?

SUPERIOR is THREATENING a SUBORDINATE with Office RAPE

Different IDEAS might have COME into Joseph’s MIND...

1. NATURAL FEELINGS – Man & Woman CONSENSUAL, BORN this WAY
2. SECRET – Behind Closed Doors, Nobody Else would KNOW
3. DESERVES It – Suffered Much, Working Hard, Trustworthy Steward
4. ADVANCEMENT – She will help Job Security and Advancement
5. FAR FROM HOME – Nobody IMPORTANT to him would be WORRIED

A good home acts as a restraining influence on the behavior of its children. But once they are away from home, emancipation may lead them to throw caution to the wind and succumb easily to the sinful charms of the wicked culture... The veneer of civilization is so thin that voyagers just ten miles out to sea often throw off moral restraint to indulge their immoral appetites. Leslie Flynn



*"Sexual Harassment
is never pretty."*

v. 10 And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

*"Stop it, before it
gets ugly."*

Potiphar's WIFE like DRIPPING FAUCET, Trying to WEAR Down Young Joe

vs. 11,12 But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

CAUGHT HIM – word describes ACT OF VIOLENCE

Only time in BIBLE a MAN is SEXUALLY ATTACKED by WOMAN

Warning of SOLOMON – 1000 yrs later – Almost Descriptive of Joseph...

Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house, lest you give your honor to others and your years to the merciless, lest strangers take their fill of your strength, and your labors go to the house of a foreigner Proverbs 5.8-10

c. Accused 2nd time Joseph's YOUNG LIFE > CLOAK: Tool of DECEPTION

vs. 13-15 And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house."

WOMAN plays RACE CARD with Servants > DIRTY HEBREW laughs at US!

Tries EVOKE some SUPPORT from SERVANTS she probably ABUSES!

The woman was insulted and decided to destroy of the life of a decent, honest, young man. This is what happens with lust. It is not the other person you love but yourself, and when lust is not satisfied, it turns to hatred. Samuel Ngewa

vs. 16-18 Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

HUSBAND comes Home >> Whole thing is HIS FAULT

He bought Not just Hebrew – SLAVE – Plays CLASS CARD

So PERSUASIVE she got JOB for FAKE NEWS CHANNEL in EGYPT!

d. Abandoned – Once again Joseph UNJUSTLY, UNFAIRLY Abandoned

vs. 19,20 As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

TEXT Unclear about Direction of Potiphar's Anger – Joseph? or HIS WIFE?

Normal PENALTY for such CRIME was DEATH of the SLAVE

But – perhaps because Potiphar had DOUBTS – Joseph sent to Upscale Prison
Did NOT want to LOSE the Blessing of Abe that came to Live Under his ROOF

Next Chapter we'll LEARN this Prison on Potiphar's PROPERTY

the house of the captain of the guard, in the prison where Joseph was confined

Genesis 40.3

2. The Boss you Wanna Be

One of JOYS of Serving as Pastor ZGC > IMPACT Whole World many Years

God GATHERED Brightest & Best from around WORLD to GROW here

One Day we all GO to Far Corners of Earth > WORK in all kinds of JOBS

Your JOBS – Will be Surprising, Challenging, Hard > Must REMEMBER...

As our Risen Lord told the “church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, *who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens*’”

Revelation 3.7

Places you GO are NOT ACCIDENTS > DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

a. Conscience – *Your Sacred Space*

Job will SQUEEZE You, STRETCH You, Take the STUFFING Out of You!

Not everyone can be a Pastor and only work One Half Day a WEEK!

But what CANNOT be Taken from you is your CONSCIENCE

Might work for Gov't, Private Sector, Charity, NGO, or Multi-National

But in for Your CONSCIENCE – REAL, INNER You – you're Self-Employed

Whether someone Cuts PAYCHECK or your NECK, U R Still BOSS of SOUL

Joseph had been DRAGGED Away from PROMISED LAND

But he had NOT LOST his CONSCIENCE – Still Loyal to GOD of PROMISE

vs. 8,9 But he refused and said to his master's wife, “Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”

People of FAITH are FEARLESS before Man because they FEAR God ALONE
 Blessing of God was with Joseph in DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE & PRISON

We would like to believe that if we serve God everything will go well. You will be blessed and so will everyone around you. Even if you have to go through difficulties, your trials will only be temporary and issue in new and exciting opportunities to share the gospel. You may get sick, but God will heal you and make it all better...Joseph's story shows us a different view of reality...Joseph found himself right down at the bottom of the heap again...this twist of fortunes did not come because of moral failure...it was because of his faithful obedience to God.
 Iain Duguid

I cannot PROMISE You that your STAND for GOD will be SAFE

3 other HANDSOME HEBREWS dragged from HOME to BABYLON

...if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up." Daniel 3.17-20



SON OF GOD stood with them IN the Fire and they LIVED

What about SAINTS Son of God takes THRU Fire into HIS Eternal Presence

More CHRISTIANS MARTYRED in our Day than any Time in HISTORY

Like these CHRISTIANS from EGYPT Not Long Ago....

b. Choice – Your Stand for Something

Many Christians in Many Countries would have NOT RUN like Joseph

Sadly, many who SAY they are Christians are RUNNING into BEDROOM

Given the frequent stories of sexual harassment and affairs between employers and supervisors and their married employees, it seems like many in Africa fail to realize that the Bible strongly condemns such immorality. Samuel Ngewa

Joseph knew GOD was with him > and he WANTED it to STAY that Way...

v. 8 he refused

v. 10 he would not listen to her

v. 12 he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house

How did JOSEPH RESIST? – Why did he Not FALL like SAMSON?

How can we ENDURE the PRESSURES of EVIL in our WORLD Today?

DEVIL cannot MAKE you SIN – Friends, Boss, Computer cannot Make U Sin

If you have a PORNOGRAPHY Problem – It's because You Turned it ON!

REASON you Turned it On was because you WANTED To

Glad to hear “God loves you and has Wonderful Plan for your Life”

But when Discover God's plan Suffering, Struggle, Unfulfilled Desires

Your Self-Centered & Proud Heart has a BETTER Plan for your Life

Immediate Gratification, All Glory & Praise to You – Your Will and Wishes!

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the

Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

James 4.1-10

Joseph wanted to PLEASE God and Got Out

Lots of So-Called Christians want to Please THEMSELVES and they STAY

So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2.22

Perhaps you say “I need a PURE HEART” – Me Too!

But that is the GIFT of the NEW COVENANT we have in CHRIST

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36.26

Whatever sin you struggle with, whether it is pride, lust, gossip, overeating, or anything else, its power comes from the fact that you want something more than you want God, and that sin seems to offer you a way to get it. If Joseph had valued safety, comfort, and position in his house more than he loved God, he would have given in to Potiphar’s wife. It is as simple as that. Iain Duguid

I could FINISH here – Some Made Up their Mind – Wanna Be EASY BOSS

Wanna be BOSS allows Conscience & Choices to FEAST on Selfish PRIDE

But as Minister of Gospel – Must tell you BIG BOSS will have FINAL SAY

One who MADE You – Given you every Gift of Life – Day of RECKONING

3. The Boss you will Worship

a. Unexpected Move

vs. 21-23 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge

Before Joseph has TIME to UNPACK @ Potiphar's He is MOVING AGAIN
LIKE ALL the Moves he's Made in his SHORT LIFE – Against his Will

Like DANIEL to BABYLON – Joseph sent on Mission he did NOT CHOOSE

Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette sent to CHINA in 1910 – Prof YALE in China

As he STOOD at DOCK waiting for Ship to carry across PACIFIC

“If for any reason that ship had not sailed, I would have thrown my hat in the air for joy!”
Kenneth Scott Latourette

CHINA awarded him ORDER OF JADE, Great Scholar Chinese Xtian History

Potiphar's Wife saw Joseph Someone to SPORT for her OWN PLEASURE

Prison Warden saw him Someone to SERVE for Good of COMMUNITY

What was SURPRISE to Joseph was REALLY the SOVEREIGN Plan of God

Purpose of God STILL UNFOLDING thru PAIN of Joseph / God is Present

For 6th Time in Chapter we read PROMISE of EMMANUEL

v. 23 the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.

Bible does NOT Focus on MORAL Example of Joseph > Saving Plan of God

PLAN that brought BLESSING to Joseph > but Most Importantly thru JOSEPH

When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him. The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free; he made him lord of his house and ruler of all his possessions, to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom.

Psalm 105.16-22

God our CREATOR, JUDGE, is also our SAVIOR

TRUE SON of Abraham NOT Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, or Judah >> JESUS!

STORY Line of BIBLE is COMING of Jesus the SAVIOR of the WORLD

Like Joseph – Young Man who knew His Purpose in this World...

Pilate...said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

John 19.9-11

BEING Faithful for Jesus meant Losing More than a JOB

Jesus knew it was NOT Pilate that held SPIKES and NAILS of the CROSS

b. Undeserved Mercy – One More Look at Big Picture of God here

Joseph BACK in the PIT of Egyptian PRISON

Elder Brother JUDAH back in Canaan in PURSUIT of his Own PLEASURES

Joseph's Self-Control SHINES BRIGHTER agnst Backdrop Judah's Surrender

NOTICE CAREFULLY

God is NOT Working in Joseph's Life BECAUSE he was GOOD BOY

NOR is God ABSENT from JUDAH'S life because he was a BAD BOY

If that were Case > God LOVES us when we are FAITHFUL

But if we ever FALL, God will THROW US under the BUS!

Many Christians are trying to make DEALS with God....

You are TITHING Faithfully, so your BUSINESS will SUCCEED

You are STILL a VIRGIN, so GOD better give you a GREAT SPOUSE

You STUDY Real HARD, so GOD better give you that Ph.D.

You PRAY with your SPOUSE, so GOD better give you CHILDREN

All those are GOOD Things, GREAT Things – But God is GREATER

And we are Supposed to WANT Him MORE – Is He what we WANT MOST?

If you want ANYTHING MORE than God you are Practicing IDOLATRY

Question of BIBLE is Not “What would JOSEPH DO?”

God will Choose JUDAH to Hold the SCEPTER & bring Forth a LION

Instead – Great Theme > “What has JESUS Done!?”

Follow ONE whose CONSCIENCE was Wholly Devoted to Will of God for Us..

Only JESUS Withstood EVERY Temptation, RESISTED every TRAP of SIN

JUDAH chose to PLUNGE Headlong into SIN and PLEASURE

JESUS chose to Plunge into SINS HORRIBLE PENALTY for US

JOSEPH RAN for SAFETY – Jesus RAN to be SLAIN for US on a CROSS

Jesus – SINLESS, RIGHTEOUS – Dies for UNRIGHTEOUS, SINNERS

NOW Alive – HERE in Power and Presence of His Spirit

WALKS with Us – Never Fail us or Forsake Us

Whether this Life Finds you in PRISON or PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

(In Some of our Countries – One leads to the Other!!)

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm 73.25,26

Genesis 39.⁶Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. ⁷And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me." ⁸But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge. ⁹He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" ¹⁰And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her. ¹¹But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, ¹²she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. ¹³And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, ¹⁴she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. ¹⁵And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." ¹⁶Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, ¹⁷and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. ¹⁸But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house." ¹⁹As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. ²⁰And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²²And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.