

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife

A Retelling of Genesis 39

Joseph was a young man who lived far away from his home and family because he had been sold into slavery. Joseph lived in Egypt. He worked for Potiphar, who was an important person in Egypt. Potiphar was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. His job was to protect Pharaoh's life.

The Lord was with Joseph, so everything that he did went very well. Potiphar noticed this, and he trusted Joseph. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his entire house and everything that he had. Joseph was a wise manager and took good care of everything.

Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to do something selfish that would hurt her marriage. Joseph was young and handsome. She wanted him to help her break the commandment against adultery, but Joseph said "no." Joseph loved marriage, and he knew the Lord would want him to love and protect Potiphar's marriage. Potiphar's wife asked him again and again, but Joseph would not do what she wanted.

One day, when no one else was near, Potiphar's wife caught hold of Joseph's outer garment. He knew what she wanted, so he ran away. But as he ran, his outer garment was left behind in her hand. Potiphar's wife was angry. She called out to people in the house. She showed them Joseph's garment. Then she told lies. She said Joseph had threatened to hurt her and that she had screamed, so he ran away.

Potiphar's wife kept Joseph's clothing with her all day. She waited until her husband came home. Then she told Potiphar the same lie. When Potiphar heard her story, he became angry. He believed his wife. So, he fetched Joseph and put him in a prison.

But the Lord was with Joseph even though he was shut away in prison. The keeper of the prison could see that and put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. The Lord made Joseph prosper, and eventually he was freed from prison and put in charge of the whole country of Egypt, with only Pharaoh above him.