

EPISODE NO. 36

Gen. 39:1-23

Joseph and the Wife of Potiphar

1 Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an important Egyptian officer, was the captain of the guards. He purchased Joseph from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

2 However, the Always-Present One was with Joseph. And, Joseph was a successful man. He was in the household of his Egyptian master. 3 His master could see that Yahweh was with Joseph in everything that he did and that Yahweh was giving him success. 4 Potiphar liked Joseph. So, he made Joseph his personal servant. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all his household. And, Potiphar trusted him to take care of everything that belonged to Potiphar. 5 From the moment that Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household and over everything that Potiphar owned, the Always-Present One blessed the household of the Egyptian man because of Joseph. The blessing of the Always-Present One was upon everything that Potiphar had, whether in the household or in the field. 6 Potiphar left everything up to Joseph's judgment. Potiphar did not concern himself with anything except the food that he ate.

Now Joseph was well-built and good-looking. 7 After a while, his master's wife noticed how handsome Joseph was. She said, "Go to bed with me!"

8 But Joseph refused. He said to his master's wife, "Listen, my master does not worry about what is in the household. He trusts me to take care of everything. 9 I am the most trusted one in this household. There is nothing which Potiphar has held back from me — except YOU! You are his WIFE! How could I do this great evil and sin against God!?"

10 She continued to speak to Joseph day after day, but Joseph would not listen to her. He would not go to bed with her. In fact, he would not even be with her. 11 One day, Joseph went into the house to do his job. None of the males from the household were present in the house. 12 Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph's robe and said, "Have sex with me!" But Joseph left his robe in her hand and ran outside.

13 When she saw that he had left his robe in her hand and run outside, 14 she called out to the men of the household and said to them, "Look, my husband has brought a Hebrew

man among us to make fun of us! Joseph tried to have sex with me, but I screamed! 15 When he heard me scream, he ran outside, leaving his robe with me!”

16 She kept Joseph’s robe beside her until Potiphar, his master, came home. 17 These are the words which she used to tell her story to Potiphar: “Joseph — the Hebrew slave whom you brought to us — tried to have sex with me! He was making fun of me! 18 But when Joseph heard me scream, he ran outside, leaving his robe beside me!”

19 When Joseph’s master heard the story of his wife, he became very angry. 20 Joseph’s master took him and threw him in jail, where the prisoners of the king were kept.

However, while Joseph was being held there in prison, 21 the Always-Present One was with him. God showed him kindness and caused the warden of the jail to like him. 22 So, the prison warden put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were there in jail and over everything that happened there. 23 It was not necessary for the warden of the jail to think about anything that Joseph was responsible for. The Always-Present One was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever Joseph did.