

## FAITHFUL & FORGOTTEN

GENESIS 39 | ERIC SIMPSON | FEBRUARY 7, 2021

"The soul is like a wild animal—tough, resilient, resourceful, sawy, self-sufficient. It knows how to survive in hard places. But it is also shy. Just like a wild animal, it seeks safety in the dense underbrush. If we want to see a wild animal, we know that the last thing we should do is go crashing through the woods yelling for it to come out. But if we will walk quietly into the woods, sit patiently at the base of the tree, and fade into our surroundings, the wild animal we seek might put in an appearance." – Parker Palmer

*Genesis 39:1-4*

<sup>1</sup>Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup>Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

- Temptation often strikes in times of favor.

*Genesis 39:6-8*

<sup>6</sup>Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, <sup>7</sup>and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" <sup>8</sup>But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care."

- No matter how strong the temptation, God provides a way to overcome.

"Those with a well-kept heart are persons who are prepared for and capable of responding to the situations of life in ways that are good and right. Their will functions as it should, to choose what is good and avoid what is evil, and the other components of their nature cooperate to that end. They need not be 'perfect'; but what all people manage in at least a few times and areas of life, they manage in life as a whole." – Dallas Willard

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

... And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

peirasmos (pi-ras-mos) = trial, testing, temptation

*Genesis 39:19-20*

<sup>19</sup>When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. <sup>20</sup>Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

- Choosing God's way doesn't mean those around you will.

From Orson Scott Card's novel, *Ender's Shadow*...

"Do you know why Satan is so angry all the time?

Because whenever he works a particularly clever bit of mischief, God uses it to serve his own righteous purposes."

"So God uses wicked people as tools?"

"God gives us the freedom to do great evil, if we choose. Then he uses his own freedom to create goodness out of that evil, for that is what he chooses."

"So in the long run, God always wins?"

"Yes...in the short run, though, it can be uncomfortable."