

February 21/22, 2004

## Study Questions

*Fear or Faith (Part 2): A Study in the Life of Joseph*

### Faith and Favor

Genesis 39:1-23

Pastor Bryan Clark

#### Opening Discussion

1. Relate a time when you did the right thing and were treated unfairly in return. How did you feel? Why?
2. What do you expect from God when you do what is right? What do you expect from others when you do right?
3. Why do people in our culture do right? Fear of getting caught? Fear of consequences? Fear of embarrassment or shame? Deep convictions?

#### Bible Study

1. Review the details of Joseph's story from Genesis 38. What must Joseph have been thinking as he was carried away to Egypt?
2. Read Genesis 39:1-23. Notice how many times the writer emphasizes God's favor being upon Joseph and Joseph prospering. Why is that important, given the circumstances of the story?

Is what happened to Joseph what we would imagine when we think of someone prospering? Does it seem like God's favor is on Joseph? Why or why not?

3. How does Joseph respond to temptation?

What do we learn from him about resisting temptation?

See if you can list three specific principles for resisting temptation from Joseph's example.

4. Read Psalm 105:16-24. Verse 18 gives us additional information regarding Joseph's suffering in prison. How difficult would it have been to continue to trust God and do right, while sitting in prison shackled at the neck and ankles for a crime he didn't commit?
5. Notice 39:23. After all that Joseph has been through, the writer still wants the reader to know "the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper." How does this help us to understand what it means to trust God and walk by faith?

## **Application**

1. What one specific principle does the Joseph story teach you that will help you resist temptation?
2. How does the Joseph story equip you to understand what it means to trust God and walk by faith?

What can we rightly expect from God when we do right?

3. Pray that each of us will have the faith to follow Joseph's example.