

(Genesis 39:1) 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.

5 Keys for "Living from Bad to Worst":

1) Trust that the Lord is in control and leading you even if you can't see it

1 Peter 4:12-13 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.

- **2 types of trials:(1) Consequences to our actions (2) Trials God allows to purify us**

(Genesis 39:2-4) The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 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.

2) Have Christ-centered goals in life

(Romans 8:29) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- **True success in life is not determined by our circumstances**

(Genesis 39:5-6a) From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

School/Work Principles:

- **God is our real leader, but He wants us to obey our earthly leaders**
- **Our attitudes, words, and actions should glorify God**
- **Our work is to be done with excellence**
- **We should work hard, be honest and faithful**
- **Leaders, put others first. Lead by example**
- **Others should be blessed by God in us**

Titus 2:9-10 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

3) Let every aspect of our life make God look good

(Genesis 39:6b-9) Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 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-one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?"

4) Fear the Lord and run from evil

Proverbs 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

- **Don't let past hurts be excuses to sin or not change**

(Genesis 39:10) And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even to be with her.

- **Homework: Study the difference between women of Proverbs 7 and 31**
- **In temptation: Desire + Opportunity = Conception of sin**

James 1:13-15 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Steps to stay free:

1. **Don't be confident in your flesh – know your weaknesses**
2. **Build moral fences and be accountable to God and others**
3. **Stay full of and led by the Holy Spirit**
4. **Flee when tempted, stand on God's Word**
5. **Say "no" to the temptation - Submit yourself to God**
6. **Repent quickly if you sin**

(Genesis 39:11-21) One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

- 5) **Don't be fearful, discouraged, or bitter, God is with and guiding you**

(Genesis 39:22-23) So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Romans 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Revelation 12:11 (NKJV) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

All Bible references are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise noted. NKJV = New King James Version.