

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 19
Joseph in Egypt

AIM: to teach my pupils the way a Christian should live, even away from home.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to tell an example of someone who stood for Christ away from home, or to tell an experience from their own lives when they witnessed and were the only Christian, or have them tell of sometime when they stood the test when it was difficult. This could be experiences in their lives or in the life of another.

INTRODUCTION: Joseph, as a lad, had been hated by his brethren and had been sold to the Midianites. They in turn had sold him to Egypt. He was in Egypt for much of his life, and the lesson for this week deals with his years in Egypt. Let us notice some interesting things about him there.

- I. JOSEPH WAS A SERVANT. Notice in Genesis 39:1, 2, that he was bought for that purpose. Later he was going to be a great success. Before a person can be a great leader, he must be a great follower. Before a person can have servants, he must be a servant. The Bible says that the highest job of all is the least job, and he that would be master, must be servant of all. Every Christian should be a servant of Christ.
- II. JOSEPH WAS A TESTIMONY IN EGYPT. Notice especially the words in Genesis 39:3a, "And his master saw that the LORD was with him." Egypt was a wicked nation. Joseph stood for the Lord, even though he was a young man, alone, in a wicked nation. People could tell there was something different about him. Would God the same thing could be said of us!
- III. JOSEPH WAS A BLESSING, EVEN IN EGYPT. See Genesis 39:4, 5. Joseph did not live for himself. He lived for others. He sought to be a blessing to others, to help others, and to satisfy the needs of others.
- IV. JOSEPH WAS CLEAN, EVEN IN A DIRTY COUNTRY. In Genesis 39:6, notice the words, "...Joseph was a goodly person..." In other words, he was a good person. He lived right in a country that lived wrong. All the others were doing it, but Joseph didn't. He did not know the statement, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." He was willing to live right even though others lived wrong.
- V. JOSEPH COULD WITHSTAND TEMPTATION. Notice Genesis 39:7-12. At the risk of his own life and reputation in Egypt, Joseph withstood the severest of temptations. All of us must realize that temptations will come our way. Especially is this true in the lives of young people such as Joseph. There is a way to withstand temptations. Read I Corinthians 10:13. Every Christian should have this verse memorized and use it often. Ask the members of the class to give you some things they have been tempted to do at times but have withstood.
- VI. JOSEPH COULD TAKE FALSE ACCUSATION. See Genesis 39:16-18. There was certainly no ground whatsoever for a charge to be brought against Joseph. Yet a lie was conceived, and he was falsely accused. His reaction to this was Christian. He left it in the hands of the Lord. He didn't give up; he didn't say, "Well, there is no use in serving the Lord. It doesn't pay anyway." He knew how to take accusation.
- VII. JOSEPH COULD TAKE TRIALS. This is found in Genesis 39:20. He was cast into prison because people believed the false accusation against him. Even though he was innocent, he had to face trials. Probably more trials are faced by the innocent than by the guilty. Nothing condemns this world like purity. Nothing stirs the anger of unrighteousness like righteousness. Nothing makes dirt as dirty as cleanliness. The best Person who ever lived in this world, and the only perfect Person, was the most hated, despised and persecuted Person Who ever lived! The more we become like Him, the more trials we will face and the more accusations will come against our character. Joseph didn't give up; he kept on serving the Lord, even in prison! He knew how to take trials.

VIII. JOSEPH'S CLEAN LIFE PAID OFF IN THE END. This is always the case. It pays to live right, to be clean and to be moral. Joseph became second only to Pharaoh in the kingdom. Compare this with the servant that he was at the beginning. Compare this also to the prisoner that he was after his false accusation. Someone has said, "Everybody will finally settle at his own level." One may rise above his level or be cast beneath his level, but in the end he will settle at his own level. Character determines our level. We may rise above our level of character by personality, enthusiasm, etc., but in the end, we will settle to our character level. We may be thrown below our character level by adversity, but in the end, we will rise to our character level.

IX. JOSEPH WAS MADE A BLESSING TO ALL THE PEOPLE. Note Genesis 41:49, 55-57. The person of real character and the person who is a real dedicated Christian determines success in life or failure in life by what he can do to be a blessing. Joseph's stand for Christ and right now enables him to be the provider for all the people. The storehouses are in his hands! He now can be a blessing!

CONCLUSION: Every Christian should want to be a blessing. If we are going to be a blessing in the future, we must qualify to be a blessing at the present. We do this by being able to take temptation, accusation, trial and success. When one can stand these tests, he then is made a blessing to others.