

## Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

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Genesis 39:6b-12,16-23

June 28, 2015

### Godliness pays, even when others try to make you pay for it.

It's easy to call God your Lord, confessing him with your lips, but as we all know - talk can be cheap. The Lord of life is to be confessed with our lives. Our confession is tested when we are tempted. Where will we look for life? In temptation or with the LORD God?

Some might look at the account before us today and sneer: Look where Joseph's godliness got him! In jail. First sold as a slave. Now in jail. They miss the whole picture - the real End. Come see...

### Godliness pays, even when others try to make you pay for it.

There are 2 things I want us to see today.

- ◆ Those persecuted for standing with Yahweh will prosper in him.
- ◆ Learn how to deal with sexual temptation.

❖ Confess - prosper. Persecuted - prosper, under the LORD

- ◆ Yahweh bound himself to Joseph to be his God in circumcision.
- ◆ Joseph grew to know God's mercy, forgiveness, faithful covenant love.
- ◆ Joseph found joy in serving where God placed him - there God blesses
- ◆ His attitudes, work ethic, and speech revealed he served Yahweh.
- ◆ It was clear to Potiphar Yahweh blessed Joseph's devotion/service
- ◆ Yahweh our God makes bad stuff serve to give his own the right stuff.
  - Sold as a slave - good position in Potiphar's house
  - Jailed - not killed. There a new job/purpose
  - All together - equipped Joseph for his life work. Blessed!
- ◆ Confession of the Lord clashing with darkness - yields persecution
  - Potiphar's wife's false charges: spite - insulted, frustrated, shame
  - Darkness can't stand light. It exposes them and their deeds.
  - Satan wants us to question God's blessing in persecution
- ◆ In the end - God's blessings prove him to be our faithful God

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Our God rescues us from temptation by his *do not's* and by faith that listens and longs to avoid the death trap of sin and find life walking with Yahweh. The role of God's law is not to rob us of *fun* and make life difficult. It's to save us from harm and a life of heartache, misery, pain, and destruction.

Faith embraces God's word as wisdom and love. In the face of temptation there is nothing to consider! (That's an invitation to be led into a trap.) Identify temptation with God's Word - then flee.

Joseph understood what Paul later proclaimed: <sup>18</sup> *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body.* <sup>19</sup> *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

❖ Learn to deal with sexual temptation.

- ◆ God's will is simple and clear. Sexual relations belong exclusively to the marital relationship of a husband and his wife.
  - <sup>4</sup> *Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.* Heb. 13
  - The marriage bed is designed for the marriage of 1 man + 1 woman
  - It's designed to enrich and deepen this exclusive relationship
  - Used to deepen *other* relationships - Satan making them seem right
    - ◆ Trial living together before marriage
    - ◆ Same sex *marriage*
- ◆ Enforcing morality will **not** restore our land
  - Only faith reacts as Joseph did: Unthinkable to chose evil over God
  - Faith knows sin is **always bad** and God's ways are **always good**.
    - ◆ Even when temptation makes this feel like *opposite day*.
    - ◆ Faith knows God is wisdom and his love is real.
    - ◆ Faith knows I have God's favor in Jesus. Godliness doesn't win God's favor. Godliness is the lifestyle of those who know life is found only in Yahweh/Jesus Christ - *life to the full*

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