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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Vayeshev – Flee From Sexual Immorality

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Vayeshev, which is Hebrew for “and he dwelt,” and it goes from Genesis 37:1 to Genesis 40:23.

This parashah begins by introducing us to Jacob’s son, Joseph, who had dreams of greatness and was despised by his brothers (Genesis 37:1-11).

Joseph’s brothers conspired against him, threw him into a pit, and then sold him into captivity in Egypt. Then they told their father that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal (Genesis 37:12-36).

After that, we read a bizarre story of how Judah wronged his daughter-in-law, Tamar, by not keeping his promise to let her marry his son, Shelah. So she disguised herself as a prostitute and tricked Judah into sleeping with her. She got pregnant and bore twins named Perez and Zerah (Genesis 38).

Then we read about how Joseph served his master Potiphar. But after turning down Potiphar’s wife who was trying to seduce him, she falsely accused him of assaulting her and Joseph was imprisoned (Genesis 39).

The parashah concludes with Joseph interpreting the dreams of two fellow prisoners (Genesis 40)

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present a thought on fleeing from temptation.

This short Torah Portion may not be appropriate for all ages. So, if you’re watching with children, please consider before going forward.

1 Corinthians 6:18

[Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.](#)

Why does Paul say to “flee” from sexual sin? Doesn’t that seem strange? Wouldn’t it make more sense to say, “Stand firm,” like he says in regards to other temptations? Why, when it comes to sexual sin, does he say to run away?

In this Torah Portion, we can look at Joseph to learn why this is a good strategy. Joseph worked for a man named Potiphar. But Potiphar had an unfaithful wife who tried to come on to Joseph. The Scriptures say that she tried to seduce Joseph and tempted him day after day. One day she got him alone and he was in a very vulnerable position:

Genesis 39:11-12

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, she caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me.” But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.

You’ll notice that Joseph’s response was not just to try to resist her and continue on with his work while she continually threw herself at him. No! He ran away. He didn’t even stay in the house with her. He got far away from her as fast as he could.

Sexual immorality is very difficult to resist for many people—especially if they have a history of engaging in those types of sins. Anyone who has struggled with giving into sexual lust, such as watching pornography, can tell you how easy it is to fall back into the trap. Glancing a little too long at an image that pops up in your web browser can often lead to web searches, which leads to other more explicit and pornographic images, which then leads to videos, etc.

In order to not fall prey to sexual immorality, some may want to set up boundaries to avoid even the opportunity of crossing a line.

For some of us, that might include installing some sort of accountability software on our computer. That might include limiting our Internet use to certain times during the day when we won’t be tempted to look at things we shouldn’t. Is there a reason we need to be on our phone or laptop in the middle of the night when everyone is asleep? Is it worth the risk? Maybe having an accountability partner is a good idea if you struggle with such things

Indeed, when you struggle and are tempted with sexual sin, it’s as if Potiphar’s wife has caught you by the garment. Don’t even think about staying in the house with her—not even for a second. Immediately get off the Internet, turn off your computer, remember your boundaries. Don’t even give yourself the chance to give in to sexual sin.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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