

Unimpeachable

- I. Slide1,2 **Intro: Unimpeachable** (not to be doubted, questioned, or criticized; entirely trustworthy)
- A. **Impeachable** = call into question the integrity **or** validity of someone.
1. Our Joseph here...*unimpeachable*.
- B. The symmetry in this chapter is amazing. 1-6 builds like 21-23.
1. We get *the storyline*, **but** we also get the *behind the curtain details* of **God's quiet control & the man of faith's quiet victory**.
- C. Slide3 God used **3 disciplines** to prepare **Joseph** to be the 2nd ruler of Egypt: *Service. Self-Control. Suffering*.
1. Slide4 Who would have thought that anything good could've come out of the notorious Ravensbruck death camp of the Nazis? But a prisoner #66730, *Corrie ten Boom* must've wandered her fate. **But** in that foul environment filled with rats, being whipped, forever hungry, terrorize day & night, she became the very best inmate, she was a Christian. Later God would give her **a worldwide ministry** because of what she endured. *What Hitler meant for evil God meant for good*.
- D. When reading ch, *start with* last verse of ch.37.
1. **Also note:** Joseph entered Egypt at the age of **18**. He left at the age of **110** for **glory**. **So** for **80 years** he was *the highest Lord of the land*. What a success story!
- II. Slide5a **THE DISCIPLINE OF SERVICE (1-6)** *From Tailored Coat to Servants Cloak*
- A. Many Christians believe that if *God is with you and you're successful*, that would equal **no problems**. **But it doesn't**. [what might God want to teach Joseph, **that** maybe being raised with a silver spoon in his mouth might not have provided? [*ie.coat/favoritism/bro's in field*]]
1. Slide5b **Jacob** had tried to shield **Joseph** from the responsibilities of **work**, **but** God knew that Joseph could never be a **ruler until** first he was a **servant**.
 2. **So** God used **3 disciplines** to prepare Joseph to be the 2nd ruler of Egypt: *Service. Self-Control. Suffering*

3. God is going to teach him how to **work hard**, **and** in this way learn **humility**.

a) Prov.22:29 *Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.*

4. Show him the importance of **obeying orders**. (take orders b4 you give them)

5. **And** to be **faithful in the small things**, **so** God can prepare him for **greater things**.

B. (3) **His master saw that the Lord was with Him** - prob didn't know who his God was, **but** perceives he's divinely enabled.

C. (4) **Overseer of his house** - Slaves in Egypt commonly held occupations of high responsibility within households.

1. For example, the Egyptian document Papyrus Brooklyn (circa 1800 bc) lists nearly 80 male and female slaves in an Egyptian household by name with their occupations. Many are described as **Asiatic**, which is an Egyptian term that included **Semites** like Joseph.¹

D. **Slide5c Ask**: What was the key to Joseph's success? The Lord was **with** Joseph - 4x's (2,3,21,23)

1. **Slide5d** The key to Joseph's **conduct** was his godly **character**.
The basis for his **character** was his **communion** with God.

2. **He was faithful**. **Unimpeachable**, not to be doubted, questioned, or criticized; entirely trustworthy.

E. (5) This seems to be a **principle** be a **blessing** to an unbelievers *home, work, city, country*.

1. Jer.29:7 *And seek the **peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its **peace** you will have **peace**.***

F. (6) Prepares the reader for the attack that's coming.

III. **Slide6a THE DISCIPLINE OF SELF-CONTROL (7-10)** *Lead me not into temptation*

A. **Slide6b** God was testing Joseph, for if Joseph could not **control himself** as a **servant**, he could never **control others** as a **ruler**.

B. (7) **Lie with me** - in addition to the issue of **adultery**, having sexual relations with the wife or concubine of **one's superior** was viewed as a **usurpation of power**.

¹ Faithlife Study Bible (Ge 39:4). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

1. Which would have been an attempt to gain control over his master's **property**.
And would likely have led to *Joseph's execution*.
- C. Slide6c Ask: What temptations did Joseph win the victory over? (the Trifecta: \$, sex, Power)
- D. (8) He refused - but note how: Immediate. Direct. Not angrily. Knew his place.
Doesn't allow for flirtatious conversation.
 1. This must be thought through & decided upon "**before**" the temptation comes.
- E. (10) This detail probably indicates that Joseph **not only** refuses *to have sex with* Potiphar's wife, **but also** refuses even to be *in her presence*.
- F. He could have argued, *Nobody will know, or Everybody else is doing it, or what happens in Potiphar's wife's bedroom stays in...* But, instead, *he lived to please God*.
- G. Freedom from supervision & his rapid promotion corrupted many other Stewards.
 1. Slide6d Only **one thing** was kept from him! *Which, others from Eve onwards have construed as a frustration*. But for Joseph these were arguments to him for **loyalty**. He called this by its right name **wickedness** (9), **which** made **truth his ally**. And by relating all to **God**, he **rooted** his **loyalty** to his master **so deep that** it was able **to hold**.
- H. The Lord is **with** us when we are **tempted** and will show us the way to escape.
 1. Slide7 We must **take the way** of escape. 1 Cor.10:13 *The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.*
 2. We must **keep away** from temptation. Rom.13:14 *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*
 3. We must **run away** if it gets too strong. 2 Tim.2:22 *flee youthful lusts*. Or, *flee lustful youths*. Or (nlt), *Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.*
 - a) It's better to **flee** and lose your **coat** than **fall** and lose your **character**.
- I. Slide8 1 Cor.9:24-27 *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do*

not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

IV. Slide9a **THE DISCIPLINE OF SUFFERING (11-23)** *when to flee & prison ministry*

- A. (12) She caught him by his garment (outer) - it is customary to remove the outer garment upon entering a house.
- B. Slide9b He resisted to the end...
1. 1st attempt, flattering & startling (7) *lie w/me.*
 2. 2nd attempt, sustained attack (10) *day after day* (but he never reopened the door) *he would not listen to her.*
 3. 3rd attempt, the final ambush (12) *she caught him by his garment, saying, lie w/me.*
 - a) *When tempted to do wrong **Flee**, when attacked by Satan for doing right **stand**.*
*John Gerstner [stand - i.e. **that you may be able to stand** against the schemes of the devil]*
- C. This is the **2nd time** that Joseph *loses a position of prominence* because of an article of clothing.
- D. (17) The Hebrew servant - The Egyptians were suspicious of foreigners, so Potiphar's wife highlights Joseph's ethnicity as well as his status.
- E. (19) his anger was kindled - we're not sure of the object of Potiphar's anger.
1. Potiphar's anger is fueled either by the accusations against Joseph - if he does not believe his wife - or by the loss of his best slave and overseer.
 2. He is in a difficult position. If he believes his wife, then Joseph must be imprisoned, and the household will suffer. If he doesn't believe her, he cannot shame his household by elevating the testimony of a foreign slave over his wife's reputation - he still has to punish Joseph.
- F. Not only was Joseph able to control his appetites, but he was also able to control his tongue; for he did not argue with the officers or expose the lie Potiphar's wife was spreading about him. Control of the tongue is a mark of spiritual maturity (James 3).
- G. Slide9c God is with us as we wait.
1. Joseph spent 2 difficult years working in the prison. But he held his faith and did what he could to serve others.

- H. How could God let you get persecuted, go to jail, have your name defamed, when you were doing the *right* thing?
- I. **Suffering with Christ** - Like Paul in Phil.3:10 *that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings.*
- J. **Slide10a** Here lies 3 Secrets of a Holy Life: *to Know Him. Know His Power. Know His Suffering*
1. Paul seems to recognize that **suffering** - brings deeper fellowship with Christ.
 - a) **So, Know Christ personally. Experience His res power dynamically. And Partner in His suffering willingly.**
- K. *If the Lord controls us, it makes little difference who commands us.*
- L. **Slide10b** Psalm 105:17-20 explains that this suffering put *iron* in his soul.
1. *He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. 18 His feet were hurt with fetters; his neck was put in a collar of iron; 19 until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him. 20 The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free;*
 2. **It definitely helped to make a man out of him.**
 - a) People who **avoid suffering** have a hard time developing character.
 - b) **Slide10c** *This suffering was not enjoyable, but it was necessary, and one day it turned into glory.*
- M. **Wrap Up:**
- N. **But I didn't do it!** (I didn't do anything).
1. It was bad enough to have been **sold as a slave**, all because of **his coat**, **but now** to be **branded as a seducer**, all because of **his coat**, surely that was too much. **Nope**, not for one who's **character** was **rooted** in **communion w/God**.
- O. God used **3 disciplines** to prepare **Joseph** & probably will use the **same 3** in **your life**: **Service. Self-Control. Suffering.** [**or maybe** you can identify a few different one's present day in **your life?**]