

# Sermon Discussion Questions

**Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell**

**Topic: Genesis**

**Scripture: Genesis 39:1-23**

## Opening:

Begin with prayer, to see sin clearly and resist it courageously. Also pray for the ability to trust God's presence in trials and reflect Christ's character.

## Give Background & Context:

Genesis 39 finds Joseph in Egypt as a slave after being betrayed by his brothers. Even there, God is with him, and he rises in responsibility, but temptation and injustice soon follow. This chapter highlights Joseph's integrity and God's faithful presence, while reminding us that sin is not just about consequences—it is a personal and relational offense against God.

- Read Genesis 39:1-6
  - What do you notice about how Joseph handled his role in Potiphar's house? How does he show both competence and character?
  - Verse 2 says, "The Lord was with Joseph." How does that shape your understanding of success and blessing—even in a place like slavery?
  - What are some areas of life where believers today are called to remain faithful, even when circumstances feel unfair? Where in your life are you called to be faithful in a hard or unfair situation?
- Read Genesis 39:7-18
  - Why is Joseph's response in verse 9 so powerful? What does it teach us about sin's relational nature in light of Joseph's response, "How could I sin against God?"
  - The sermon emphasized that sin is not just moral failure but rebellion against a holy God. How should this shift how we view temptation?
  - What makes sexual temptation especially deceptive and dangerous (see 1 Corinthians 6:18)?
  - What are some practical ways Christians can resist temptation as Joseph did with conviction, clarity, and courage?
- Read Genesis 39:19-23
  - Joseph is punished even though he did the right thing. How does that challenge the idea that doing good always leads to immediate reward?
  - How do verses 21-23 echo God's presence from the beginning of the chapter? Why is this important?
  - What does this chapter teach us about trusting God with both our character and our reputation?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
  - The sermon defined sin as **relational, rebellious, and intentional**. How does Joseph's story illustrate all three of these truths?
  - **Read Psalm 51:4 and James 1:14-15.** How do these verses help explain why Joseph called Potiphar's wife's offer "a great wickedness...against God"?
  - Joseph maintained integrity in both success and suffering. Which of those seasons is harder for you to remain spiritually alert in—and why?