

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

March 14, 2010

Just me and God

by David King

"How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9).

This was Joseph's response to his master's wife when she tried to seduce him. It is a fine example of personal integrity in action. But the real lesson is found when we survey the circumstances leading up to this moment in Joseph's life.

Recall that Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers when he was just a teenager. His few years as a slave in Egypt must have been lonely and difficult, but he worked hard and rose to a position of responsibility in Potiphar's house. That's what drew the attention of Potiphar's wife.

So when she put a move on Joseph, he had every reason in the world to give in to the temptation. Remember, there was no codified law that proscribed this behavior; there was no priest or prophet looking over his shoulder to scold him; there was no synagogue or church whose approval he had to maintain. More significantly, there was no family whose honor had to be respected — they were long gone from his life. Joseph was entirely on his own, and no one would have been the wiser had he chosen to yield to this very willing woman.

In fact, Joseph could have made a compelling case for why he deserved this reward. His life to this point had been a disaster. Rejected by his family, enslaved in a foreign land, utterly alone and lost — why not enjoy a little fling of fun when the opportunity presented itself? Surely he deserved it. After all, what had God done for him?

Ah, yes — God, the One whom his father and late mother had often told him about. Despite everything that had happened to him, Joseph could not shake the conviction that God had an opinion in this matter, and was watching over him every minute. What Potiphar's wife wanted to do was "a great wickedness," and Joseph would not indulge it. So at the moment of decision, whatever other factors might have played a role in his thinking, it came down to just Joseph and God. Joseph chose to honor God. (Postscript: Even that noble decision cost Joseph dearly. He ended up in prison, and several more years of servitude. But it all turned out well in the end.)

Today, people deal with temptation using all kinds of rationalizations and reasonings, trying to sort out what is the "right" thing to do. Many follow the path of least resistance and give in to the sin, using the same justifications that were available to Joseph. Others struggle with the temptation using honorable but weak defenses. "That wasn't the way I was raised," or "What if I get caught?" are certainly valid considerations, but they will crumble under pressure from the strongest inticements.

True righteousness is not manifested until **God** becomes the primary motivation for behavior. On the day of judgment, it will be just me and God discussing my eternal destiny. It behooves me, therefore, to take that same approach when wrestling with decisions that impact my life today. Whatever other factors might come into play, only one should influence my decision: What does **God** want me to do?