



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

### **Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth**

**Supports Session 11:** Compromise

**Sermon Title:** "Refusing to Compromise" (Genesis 39:6-21)

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#### **Connection to Session 11**

We learned in Bible study this morning that Samson constantly compromised, which cost him a tremendous toll in his life. We will learn in today's message how Joseph refused to compromise. Yes, his refusal led to difficult times, but God was with him throughout.

#### **Introduction/Opening**

Our sinful nature wants us to believe that we can get close to sin and not be hurt by it. But the closer we get to sin, the more tempting it becomes (Prov. 6:27). Our new nature in Christ tells us to get as far away from sin as possible. Today's sermon is an example of one who did not want to have anything to do with a particular sin and, therefore, refused the offer to compromise his character. While his actions did not bode well for him in the moment, God was still with Joseph and blessed him immensely.

#### **Outline**

- 1. Refusing to compromise begins with knowing our sin is against God (v. 9)**
  - a.** We must understand the context so we can accurately interpret the passage. Joseph had been betrayed by his brothers and was sold into slavery (Gen. 37:27-28). It did not take long, however, for Joseph to gain influence since he was faithful to God no matter the circumstances. We find his character on display when he refused to sin by engaging in an inappropriate relationship with his master's wife.
  - b.** The text says that Joseph was approached by his master's wife on a regular basis, and he refused to compromise each time. The reason for his refusal was a proper understanding of the consequences of sin as stated in verse 9. First, if he had engaged in the compromise, it would have been an "immense evil." The world wants us to believe that sin is not that big of a deal, and everyone else is engaging in the same sin. The Bible, however, reveals a different picture, and it would be wise of us to see sin in this light.

- c. Second, the immense evil would have been “against God.” David echoed this truth after Nathan confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba. He said, “Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight” (Ps. 51:4). Yes, our sin has impact on us and those around us. But our sin is ultimately against God. Joseph knew this and, therefore, refused to participate in the sinful action.

**2. We will be called to continuously refuse to compromise (v. 10)**

- a. Sin is unrelenting. God warned Cain of this, saying “sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it” (Gen. 4:7). The same is true of us as well. We even see evidence of this truth in today’s passage in that Joseph was propositioned continuously. Yet, the Bible also articulates that he continuously refused to give into the temptation.
- b. It has been stated that character is who we are when no one is looking, and integrity is character lived out over a period of time. We find Joseph’s character and integrity on display in this passage because his continual refusal to compromise led to God blessing him. Joseph was placed second only to Pharaoh, he saved his family and others from the famine, and now we are studying his story thousands of years later. This shows us that our character and integrity can have impact beyond our lifetimes. But for this to occur, we must continuously refuse to compromise, caving to things that we know to be wrong.

**3. When we refuse to compromise, we must be prepared to run (v. 12)**

- a. It is summer, and some will be going on vacation to the beach or the mountains. Others may stay home and not look at emails for a few days. No matter which option is chosen, plans need to be made before the trip occurs. None of us will wake up one day and decide it is time for vacation without some planning. When we plan, we are more apt to enjoy our time away.
- b. If we know it is wise to plan for a trip, then should we not consider doing a little advanced planning for when we sin approaches? If we can plan, then we are more apt to being able to avoid the trap the enemy is trying to set. Joseph helpfully serves as an example. When his master’s wife took his outer garment, he ran. He did not try to debate her or reason with her. He did not even try to get his outer garment back. Instead, he ran! Might this have been a little embarrassing? Sure; but he knew that giving in would have been immensely evil and a sin against God. Therefore, he ran.

**4. God blesses our refusal to compromise (v. 21)**

- a. As we come to the end of this story, we find great hope in verse 21. Joseph, who was wrongly accused, was in jail based on a lie (v. 20). Verse 21 says, “But the LORD. . .” Had Joseph’s circumstances changed for the better? No. But the Lord

was with Joseph. The passage also states that God extended kindness to him while granting him favor with the prison warden.

- b.** Were Joseph's circumstances ideal? Certainly not! Was God still in control and blessing Joseph no matter his circumstances? Absolutely! The key to this, and what we can learn from Joseph, is that we need to focus on God's goodness no matter the circumstances.

## **Conclusion**

Today's world is teaching us that we constantly need to compromise. While it is okay to compromise on where we may eat after church today, it is not okay to compromise on living according to God's standards. Samson compromised and it cost him. Joseph did not compromise, and God blessed him. Let us be wise and learn from both stories today and be a church that is focused on God's standards as outlined in His Word.

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