

JUST SAY NO
GEN. 39

There are a lot of words that are hard to say. I found a word that contained 45 letters which I cannot say: pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis --"a factitious word alleged to mean 'a lung disease caused by the inhalation of very fine silica dust,' but occurring chiefly as an instance of a very long word." Pronouncing this word is a major undertaking for anyone, but it is not the most difficult word to say.

I really believe that one of the most difficult word to say is the little word "NO." It is difficult for parents to say "NO" to children for young people to say "NO" to their peers, for adults to say "NO," for preachers to say "NO" to certain things they are called on to do. For some years now, we have had a "Just Say No" drug campaign. We are having to truth to teach and train people to say "NO" to things that are harmful.

When personal desire is strong to do something, it is hard to say "NO." Paul says in Romans 7:19... it is hard to say no when we have the heavy pressure of the wrong kind of friends (I Cor. 15:33). It is hard to say no when Satan uses our weaknesses to seduce us (James 1:14-15). The word "NO" may be hard to say, but it is not impossible.

This evening I want to consider the example of a young man in the O.T. and notice how he dealt with temptation. His example reveals several factors that will help us to say "NO" to temptation today.

The young man is Joseph (Gen. 39:6-10). He was faced with one of the most subtle and powerful temptations of all, at the hands of Potiphar's wife, but he turned away and said "NO." Let's look closer at his example for us today.

- I. Joseph possessed a sense of responsibility and accountability.
 - A. As a servant of Potiphar
 - B. This is something that it seems the world in general has ignored.
 1. You see it in the rearing of our children.
 - a. We have given them too much!! Time, freedom, money, things!!!
 - b. And too little sense of the need of God.
 - c. We have made life too easy for them. Responsibilities, problems, hard times—all are a part of real life! And we have too often shielded them from these.
 2. Thus, when temptations arise, they fail to realize that they will be held accountable and are therefore responsible for the way they deal with it.
 3. Eccle. 11:9-12:1
 4. How important it is to have a sense of responsibility.
 - C. When Joseph was propositioned by Potiphar's wife, his response gave insight to the fact that he had a sense of responsibility here (Gen. 39:8-9).
 1. He did not betray confidence others had in him.
 2. "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house."
 3. "...he has committed all that he has to my hand."
 4. "There is no one greater in this house than I."
 5. "Nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife."
 6. "How then can I do this great wickedness..."
 7. "...and sin against God."
 - D. Our problem of overcoming temptation is much easier if we remember that we will give an individual account to God.
 1. Romans 2:6
 2. II Cor. 5:10
 3. Eccle. 12:13-14
 4. Give account to God for our own sins.
 - a. Ezek. 18:20
 - b. I John 1:8-10

5. You notice that Joseph considered his own obligation—what *he* ought to do.
 6. Recognizing our responsibility contributes to our ability to say “NO” to temptation.
- II. Joseph possessed a sense of ethics (right and wrong).
- A. Isaiah 5:20
 - B. Joseph called it what it was, “wickedness and sin”
 1. He did not try to whitewash it. “Fling or affair, one night stand”
 2. He called it what it was!
 - C. It helps us to say “NO” to temptation by having a sense of right and wrong.
 1. Such is produced by knowledge of God’s word.
 2. Romans 7:7
 3. Heb. 5:14
 4. Psa. 119:11
 5. Must have sense of what is right and what is wrong!
 - D. Knowing what God’s will is helps us to say “NO” to temptation.
 - E. The three “D’s”... **D**ecision **D**etermine **D**estinies!
- III. Joseph possessed a sense of Reverence and Love for God.
- A. He understood the principle of Eccle. 12:13.
 - B. When propositioned by Potiphar’s wife, Joseph did not want to sin, further, He did not want to sin against God.
 - C. When we love God with all our being, it is easier to say “NO” to temptation.
 1. An old preacher visited a member of the church who had been missing the assembly frequently.
 2. He quoted Heb. 10:25 to him...
 3. After he left, he said to himself, “I quoted the wrong verse to him.” “I should have quoted Matthew 22:37.”
 4. Love for God contributes to overcoming temptation.
 - D. Involved in this love for God is the sense of self-denial.
 1. Matthew 16:24
 2. The word deny means “to refuse, absolutely to say no, decline.”
 3. We must abandon all that is opposed to Christian service.
 4. He knew some things did not belong to him. [*“thou art his wife”*]
 - E. Knew that Sin is Against God (39:9)
 1. Insufficient to ask, “How do you feel about this matter?”
 2. How does God feel. . . what has He said?
- IV. Joseph Possessed Common Sense Enough to Avoid Temptation.
- A. Gen. 39:12—He left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.
 1. This was no time to reason with the woman.
 2. It was not a time to “pray about it” or to meditate.
 3. The only godly course of action was to flee from her
 - B. God has promised to provide a way of escape (I cor. 10:13).
 1. There will always be a way out, but we need to use it.
 2. II Tim. 2:22—flee youthful lusts.
 - C. Someone has said, “If we court temptation, sooner or later, we will end up holding hands with the devil.”
 - D. Joseph harkened not unto her (39:10)
 1. She was persistent “day by day.”
 2. Joseph tried not to even be with her.
 - E. We can overcome temptation, by refusing to have anything to do with it.
 1. Joseph fled (I Thess. 5:22)
 - F. Satan uses personal weaknesses to get a person’s attention.

1. Then he lures that individual with that same weakness.
 2. Result (James 1:14-15)
 3. We need to watch out for temptation, the more you see it, the better it looks!
 4. Joseph was aware of the seductive measures of the immoral.
 - a. Here eyes (v.7)
 - b. Here lips (v.7,10)
 - c. Her hands (v.12).
- G. Romans 13:14...
1. Provision..”pre-thought”
 2. Flesh..sinful desires.
 3. Don’t do anything now that will make it easier for you to sin later.
 4. The battle is often won or lost in our mind.
 5. Use COMMON SENSE!
- H. Notice that Joseph used three stages:
1. He tried to reason (he had come to a position not only of power, but also of privilege and trust)
 2. He tried to resist
 3. He ran!
- I. The victory which Joseph won over sin on that last occasion was directly related to his previous decisions.
1. Decide how you will respond before the temptation comes.
 2. How we handle the day-to-day temptations of life often determines how we will face the major issues that arise only occasionally
 3. Many of the temptations we face are those which we have allowed, and perhaps even encouraged
 4. If we are not actually running towards sin, we have a tendency to at least linger in its presence. But we are commanded to do the only safe thing: run away from these lusts of the flesh, and run as fast as we can.

Con:

Joseph displayed some great principles to help us say “NO” to temptation.

- Sense of responsibility
- Sense of ethics (right and wrong)
- Sense of Reverence and Love for God!
- Common Sense! ! !
- What about you?