

Great Women of the Bible



For our Bible characters, leaving a *legacy* behind from which Christians can learn and benefit from is part of what makes them *Great*.

The person was a “God-send”.

Have you ever had a person come into your life who you feel was a God-send? What was it about their impact on your life that made you feel they were sent by God?

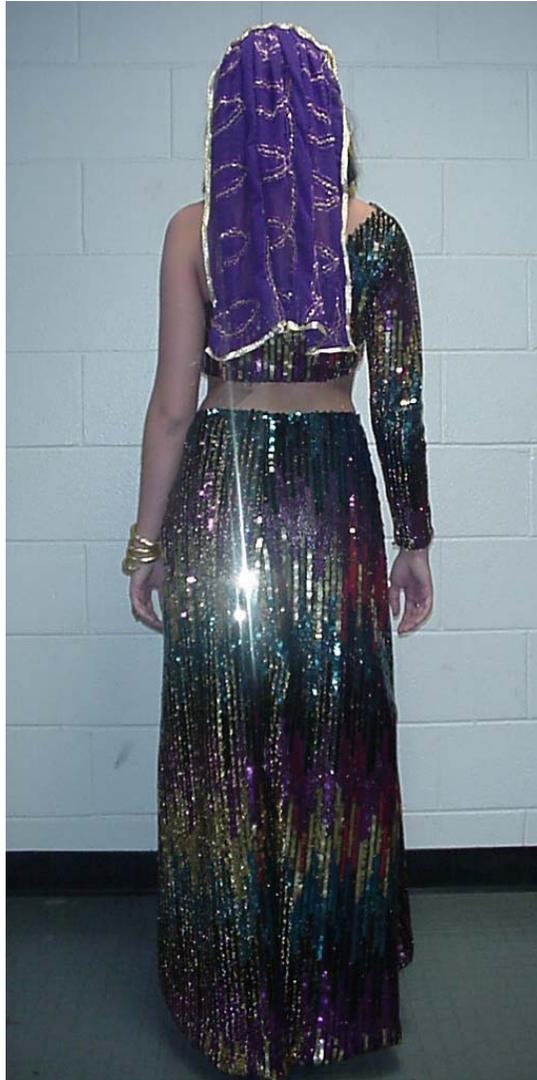
*Have you ever had a person
come into your life who you feel
was **not sent by God, but was**
sent to disrupt your life, to cause
you trouble, to challenge you, or
to test you?*

*Stiff warnings about the
danger of **adultery...***

Proverbs 5: 1-14

Proverbs 6: 20-29

Let us meet our next Great Woman of the Bible...
Potiphar's Wife



Background on Joseph

- The man Joseph who appears in the Book of Genesis is not to be confused with Joseph the father of Christ. They are two different people.
- Joseph was a righteous man. He was special. He had a gift of prophecy and dreaming and his brothers were jealous.
- Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and he was bought by a man named Potiphar.
- Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's key men. He had power and influence because of his close relationship with Pharaoh.

Genesis 39: 1-5

Joseph dealt with unfortunate events of being sold into slavery, yet, the Lord made sure that in his bad situation that Joseph was blessed. Potiphar could see that Joseph was a Godly man and he respected him.

Life Lesson: Even in your bad situation, if you are a good person, God can bless you...



Genesis 39: 6-7

*What is going on with Potiphar's wife? Try to get inside her head... Why is she behaving this way? **Joseph's relationship with Potiphar and God is being challenged by Potiphar's wife...***

What's Going on with Potiphar's Wife?

- She is lonely
- She feels neglected
- Her husband is too important and too busy for her
- She has unfulfilled needs
- As an important woman, she is just used to getting what she wants
- Maybe she has deep issues from her past
- She could be just a negative person that is up to no good

Genesis 39: 8-12

*Joseph refuses Potiphar's wife and her sexual advances. He doesn't stay around for long. In fact, Joseph **runs away** from the situation. Do you feel that most men would have reacted this way? Why or why not? What messages reside in this passage for men of God?*

*Potiphar's Wife was sent to
challenge Joseph's relationship
with God...and Joseph passes
the test...*

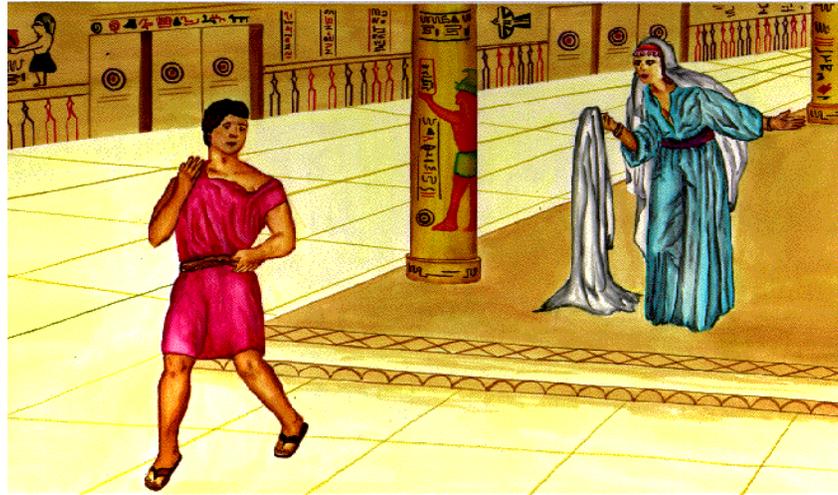
*Men of God—it is possible for us to have exhibit **self-control** in terms of avoiding sinful, sexual situations...*

Joseph Exhibits Self-Control

- Joseph exhibits loyalty and respect for Potiphar
- Joseph appreciates Potiphar's kindness and wants to do right by Him
 - Have you ever been especially kind to someone, only to have them betray you? What does that feel like?
- Most of all Joseph wants to do right by God
- **Question for Thought—Could Potiphar's wife be jealous of Joseph? *After all, "no one in the house is greater than Joseph".***

Characteristics of Sin

- Potiphar's wife represents **SIN**. From her we learn some characteristics of sin...
 - She has **no conscience**
 - She is **persistent**
 - She **schemes and waits for the right time to attack**
 - She is **aggressive**
 - **SIN has these same attributes and often attacks people who are trying to live right.**



What have we learned about Joseph thus far?

What aspects of his character should we adopt for ourselves?

Genesis 39: 13-18

Now that you know her, describe the moral character of Potiphar's Wife...

Do you know anyone like her?

What should Christians do in terms of dealing with people with poor moral character?

Genesis 39: 19-21

- Potiphar feels betrayed, made a fool of, taken advantage of, hurt, disappointed and angry
- Joseph was punished...and all he did was to do the right thing. He did the right thing and trouble still came his way. *What do you think is going through his mind?*
- **The Lord didn't prevent the storm, but the Lord was with Joseph through the storm.** Despite his difficult circumstances, Joseph still had success.

Question for Thought: Have you ever done the right thing and still endured difficulty as a result of your actions? How did you handle it emotionally? Did you regret doing the right thing or did you stand firm in your position?

What do we learn from Potiphar's wife? What lessons does she leave behind for Christians?

What have you learned about adultery, moral character, self-control, loyalty, trust, sin, favor and suffering as a Christian?