

=EVENTS FROM GENESIS=

Lesson 21  
Jesus in Joseph

AIM: to teach my pupils how to be more Christlike.

POINT OF CONTACT: Ask the pupils to tell you someone who is like Christ and in what way this person is like Christ. Another good point of contact might be to pantomime different characters who are well-known and have the pupils guess who they are. This would be leading up to a statement that we should remind people of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION: Perhaps no character in all the Bible reminds us of Jesus as much as Joseph does. For the lesson today we will find places in the life of Joseph that remind us of Jesus Christ, as we conclude our series of lessons in Genesis.

- I. JOSEPH AS A TYPE OF JESUS CHRIST. Although we cannot definitely say that in every case the similarities in the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus are absolute types, at least there is some evidence for us to believe that Joseph's life was placed in the Old Testament to point us prophetically to the life of Jesus Christ. Let us notice some of these similarities.
1. Joseph was a shepherd. In Genesis 37:2 notice the words, "...feeding the flock..." Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. We are the flock and He is our Shepherd. See John 10:11.
  2. Joseph was beloved by the father. Notice Genesis 37:3. Jesus also was beloved by the Father.
  3. Joseph was hated by his brethren. In Genesis 37:4, notice the words, "they hated him." Jesus was also hated by His brethren. John 1:11 says, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."
  4. Joseph was sent to seek his brethren. In Genesis 37:13 notice the words, "...and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I." Luke 19:10 says Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost."
  5. Joseph's brethren conspired to slay him. In Genesis 37:18 notice the words, "...they conspired against him to slay him." Compare this to Matthew 12:14, as the people conspired to kill Jesus.
  6. Joseph laid aside his coat of virtue for his brethren. In Genesis 37:23 notice the words, "...they strip Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him." Jesus also laid aside his robes of royalty, and He came to earth to be our Saviour.
  7. Joseph was cast into a pit after his brethren had conspired to kill him. In Genesis 37:24 notice the words, "...and cast him into a pit..." After his death, Jesus was also cast into a pit—the sepulchre.
  8. Joseph was lifted out of the pit. See Genesis 37:28. Jesus was lifted out of the grave. Also in this verse, Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver. Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver. Look at Genesis 37:29. Reuben returned to the pit and Joseph was not there. This reminds us of Jesus' followers returning to the sepulchre and finding it empty.
  9. Joseph was severely tempted. See Genesis 39:7. Matthew 4 tells us of the temptation of Jesus Christ.
  10. Joseph was placed in prison. Notice Genesis 39:20. Jesus Christ on the cross also went to the spirits in prison.
  11. Joseph won the favor of the keeper of the prison. See Genesis 39:21. Jesus also won one of the thieves in Luke 23:43.
  12. Joseph was placed in prison with two criminals. Read Genesis 40:1-3. Jesus was crucified between two thieves.
  13. Joseph was brought out of the dungeon. Notice Genesis 41:14. Jesus was brought out of the grave.
  14. Joseph was exalted. See Genesis 41:39, 40. After Jesus was brought out of the grave, He too was exalted.
  15. Joseph was placed at the right hand of the king. This is found in Genesis 41:42, 43. Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.
  16. As soon as Joseph came from the place of death and ascended to the right hand of the king, he took unto himself a Gentile bride. See this in Genesis 41:45. After Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to choose for Himself a Gentile bride.
  17. Joseph and Jesus were the same age during their earthly ministry. See Genesis 41:46.

18. Joseph provided for his people while at the right hand of the king. Notice Genesis 41:49, 55. Jesus provides for His people even now.
19. Joseph revealed himself to his brethren. See Genesis 45:1. Though he knew them, they did not know him. The happy day came when he revealed himself to them and they saw him as he was. Jesus also will come again. Though He can see us now, we cannot see Him. He shall be revealed to us when He comes again.

## II. PRACTICAL COMPARISONS IN THE LIVES OF JOSEPH AND JESUS.

1. Joseph forgave his enemies. Though his brothers hated him and conspired to slay him, Joseph loved them and forgave them. Jesus also forgave His enemies. Following are some of the attitudes we are to have toward our enemies:
  - 1) We are to love them. See Matthew 5:43, 44.
  - 2) We are to pray for them. See Matthew 5:43, 44.
  - 3) We are to do good to them. See Matthew 5:43, 44.
  - 4) We are to turn the other cheek. See Matthew 5:39.
  - 5) We are to get right with them. See Matthew 5:23, 24.
2. Joseph withstood temptation. Jesus also withstood temptation. Let us teach for the main body of the lesson the following ways of withstanding temptation:
  - 1) Claim the presence and help of God. Notice several things in I Corinthians 10:13. Notice that all of us have the same temptations! Even the best Christians are tempted like the poorest Christians. We are all in the flesh and face temptation, but God will give us strength and make a way of escape if we trust Him.
  - 2) Give your testimony. In Revelation 12:11 notice especially the words, “And they overcame him...by the word of their testimony....” Christians who always witness and talk about the Lord will not be tempted as much as otherwise.
  - 3) Use the Word of God. Notice in Matthew 4:4, 7, and 10 that when Jesus was tempted, He used the Word of God. If the Saviour needed the Word of God to withstand temptation, how much more we need it!
  - 4) Seek proper counsel from older and wiser people. Psalm 1:1 teaches us that we are not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly. We are to seek counsel and advice from those who are spiritual.
  - 5) Walk in the right crowd. In Psalm 1:1 we are told not to stand in the way of sinners. That means that we are not to stand around or hang around with the wrong crowd. Running with the right crowd will give us strength to withstand temptation.
  - 6) Delight in the Word of God. Psalm 1:2a, “But his delight is in the law of the LORD.” We are to have our fun in the Bible. We are to love the Word of God and delight in reading it.
  - 7) Meditate in the Word of the Lord. Psalm 1:2b, “...and in his law doth he meditate day and night.” The word “meditate” here means the same as a cow chewing a cud. Illustrate how a cow devours the food but does not digest it, brings it up and chews it, and then swallows it in the digestive tract. This we are to do with the Word of God.

## III. WAYS IN GENERAL WE ARE TO BE LIKE CHRIST.

1. We are to be baptized like Christ. See Matthew 3:15, 16. Stress this point very carefully. Those who are saved should immediately follow Christ in believer’s baptism. Get some committal from those who need to be baptized that they will follow Christ in baptism. Suggest that they walk the aisle even this Sunday evening.
2. We should do the same work that Jesus did. See John 14:12; 20:21. What was Jesus’ work? Luke 19:10 says that He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” Hence, we are to do His work—that of soul winning.
3. We are to love like Jesus loved. Notice in Luke 10:37, He admonished us to “...Go, and do thou likewise.”
4. We are to have a mind like His. See Philippians 2:5.
5. We are to attempt to live like Him. In Matthew 5:48 He admonishes us, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Though we cannot attain to this perfection, we can certainly try to be like Him.