

Matrix Moments

Christian Poetry, Media & Sermons

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Matrix Moments

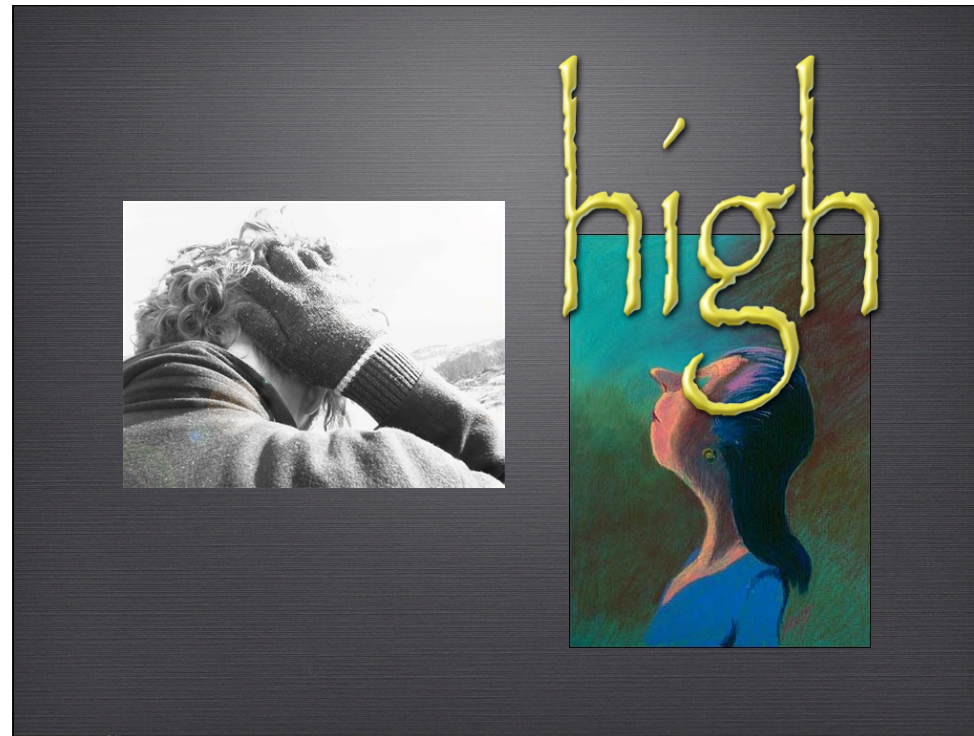
Christian Poetry, Media & Sermons



What factors would you rate as the two most important influences in dragging young people away from obeying the Lord or compromise their faith.



Want to talk on what I see is a two punch for knocking all out of the ring... realtionships.... what we are hunting for in our lives in a partner or just hunting for a thrill, and entertainment.. the way we are spending our time to entertain ourselves.... often just playing more of the games



How do these get to take hold in people... two possible causes

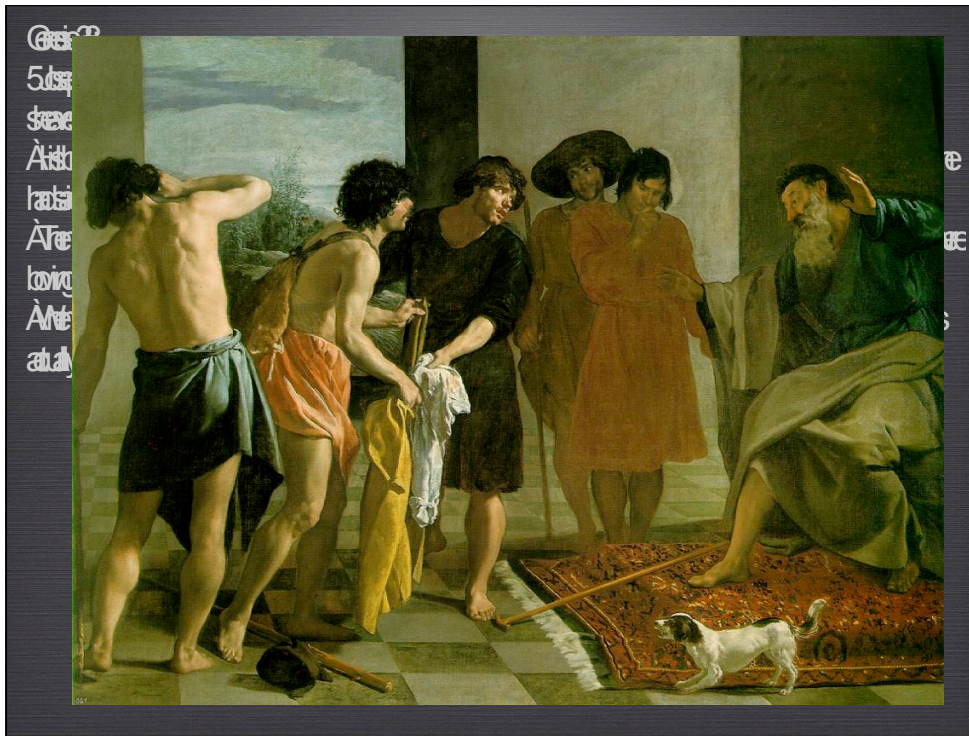
1 Too high--sinful pride

2 Too low--feelings of shame or worthlessness

3 Wouldn't it be nice if we could see ourselves the way God does



A popular Christian writer has a friend with a charming 4 yr old daughter One night a huge thunderstorm struck lightning thunder rain Girl's father went to her room to check on her Found her standing on the sill spread-eagle against the glass What are you doing he screamed She turned and happily replied I think God is trying to take my picture





sold to to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard.

He was a bit of a hunk... while young he had started to learn on the journey to trust God with his future and set his standards.

Joseph would be a odd-ball today, an affair, a sexual relationship... with the bosses wife, a chance to change his positions albeit with a bit of risk.. and he chose to stand firm to his beliefs..... she was looking for excitement, not really worried about who she would damage in the meantime... why not put this energy into her husband? There are times that we have partners that need a kick in the butt... Anyone who is a committed Christian knows there is nothing strange about Joseph. Anyone who is a committed Christian knows exactly what is at stake when adultery or lying or cheating or stealing comes knocking and beckoning at the front door. Joseph put it this way: "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" (vs 9). Joseph was not a man to mince his words. He called a spade a spade. He rightly called the woman's offer "a wicked thing." And he rightly asks, "How could I ... sin against God?"

Joseph knew and loved God. His relationship with God was very important to him. Joseph knew exactly what was at stake when sin and temptation comes knocking: to sin means to sin against God; to sin means to break one's relationship with God; to sin means to turn one's back on God. All sin means a break between God and man. And since Joseph knew and loved God above all he asks, "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" For Joseph it was unthinkable to sin against God.

How we measure up to Joseph here? If we know no one is watching or that we won't get caught, how many of us would do things we shouldn't do? Like Joseph, do we find it unthinkable to sin against God?

All sin, my brothers and sisters, is first of all sin against God. All sin breaks the relationship between God and man. When Eve ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil she sinned against God. When King David committed adultery with Bathsheba and killed her husband Uriah he sinned against God. When we lie on our income tax form we sin against God. When we cheat on our marriage partner we sin against God. When we abuse alcohol or stay away from growing in Christ with others or gossip we sin against God. We sin against God in all of these acts and we fracture our relationship with Him.

UNDERWEAR ----- DAN CARTER, do we look good..... where we do it important undie 500

Joseph knew that adultery was a sin against Potiphar and, more importantly, a sin against God. So do you know what he did? He fled; he ran outside in his underwear. That's right; he ran away from temptation. He literally turned and ran. When she ambushed him, he ran away. After she first approached him "he refused ... to even be with her." Joseph fled from temptation. Joseph kept away from temptation. When the guy you are dating suggests you go into forbidden territory just to prove you love him, flee. When something sinful is suggested to you, get up and leave. Be like Joseph and avoid evil as well as temptation.

Like Jesus, says, "Away from me, Satan" (Mt 4:10). Of course this is something all of us should do – not just the youth.

Joseph knew what was at stake: his relationship with God. This was the most important thing in his life. He didn't worry if people called him old-fashioned or narrow-minded or if the other servants snickered behind his back or if people laughed because he was outside in his underwear. Only one thing mattered to Joseph: his relationship with God. Only one thing should matter to us: our relationship to God.



Joseph found himself in an interesting situation when, through the steps of faith he got some prophetic messages from God (wonder how he got like this.. just spending time with God... listening, sharing the day to day frustrations.... remember he is a slave. The prison officer, who felt his life was saved because of what Joseph prophesied, was prepared to recommend Joseph to Pharaoh (possibly risking his own neck also). We pick up the story as Joseph is summoned to appear before Pharaoh.. as Christians we will find ourselves in all sorts of situation where who we are in Christ, the depth of our relationship with him, will give us the courage and strength as we have learnt Christ is our courage and strength to-date.

As the storm raged, the waves crashed against the shore, and the sea was as angry as the wind. The rain fell in torrents, and the lightning flashed across the sky. The storm was a terrible sight, and the people who were watching it were all in a state of great excitement. The storm was a great sight, and the people who were watching it were all in a state of great excitement.

He had learnt a lot in the area of pride through the disasters he had faced, the temptations faced, so at the end we see the journey he has grown, changed quite a bit.



So what are you looking for.... in your entertainment... in your relationships..... chasing thrills, just following the entertainment thrill drink, dance, gossip honoring God, are you really just playing a game of “she loves me, loves me not” and treating relationships pretty much at this level.....



III Joseph Prevailed Because God Was With Him

A How come Joseph had the power to resist and flee the temptation that many others would have fallen for? What was the secret of his power?

Joseph managed to resist a very tempting situation because "the Lord was with him." Joseph did not resist because of some inborn goodness. He didn't resist because he was such a saint. He didn't resist because he was better than anyone else. Joseph resisted because God's power and God's grace was at work within him. Joseph stood firm in the face of this unbelievable temptation because the Lord was with him. The presence of God became precious to Joseph as he experienced the suffering and loneliness of Egypt. The will of God meant so much to Joseph because God meant so much to him.

B The secret to fighting sin and temptation is to keep our eyes on God. The closer we come to God, the more success we can have in fighting sin and temptation. Do you want to destroy the power of evil and temptation in your life? Then keep your eyes on God: read the Bible, meditate upon its truths, pray, attend worship, and actively do God's will. Sinful appetites can't survive in such a climate. And another thing ... share with someone and make yourself accountable..... 2 weeks ago we were challenged and a number of us made commitments, some were not sure is God really speaking to me? and 2 weeks has passed.. where are we now... so easy to bury stuff!!!

In our living relationship with Christ Who lives forevermore, we know that obedience is costly.... Joseph's obedience was costly.

Obedience today can be just as costly. Your friends may shun you. Your boyfriend or girlfriend may drop you. Your co-workers may laugh at you.

B Joseph, in his obedience, was a forerunner to the Christ. It has often been pointed out that there is a parallel between the careers of Joseph and Jesus. Both left their father's house, both lived obediently through a state of humiliation, both were exalted to the throne after their time of obedient suffering had ended, and both saved the lives of their people.

Obedience for Jesus, as with Joseph, was costly. Obedience for Jesus meant the cross and the grave.

Jesus call us to take up our cross and to follow Him. In other words, we too may have to suffer for being obedient. But that is better than the alternative: suffering for obedience is better than sinning against God and breaking our relationship with Him! But we enter a love relationship.. it is simple if Christ has died for us then the power of his his love, the depths of his love and our response to this resurrection can live in us... for the purpose of taking us on a journey on this life where we cannot imagine how things may turn out.. I'm sure Joseph was amazed at the journey he went on!

Respond to Christ's love by giving him your love, your obedience. What is the wake that you want to leave in your life?