



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 11

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Today's Word: shekels

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Lesson 11: "How Can I Do This Great Wickedness?"

Questions to Ponder

- What can we learn from Joseph about turning bad experiences and circumstances into good ones?
- How do you react when members of your family offend you or receive better treatment than you do?
- How can overcome feelings of jealousy or anger toward family members or friends?
- How can we follow Joseph's example when we are tempted?



Biblical scholars have also found great interest in Joseph and his story, especially those who seek archetypes—prophetic foreshadowings of events to come, notably those related to the life of the Messiah. . . . In its general outline, the account of Joseph's life is an excellent foreshadowing of the life of the Master.

He is the favored son of the father, sent by the father on a mission to his rebellious brethren. His brethren, resenting his closeness to the father and his teachings to them, reject his message, maltreat him, and eventually take his life, as it were. The next phase of his life, beginning with his descent into the pit and concluding with his experience in prison in Egypt, may be compared typologically with the descent of Christ into the pit of hell and his mission to the spirit prison.

Ultimately he is brought out of the prison and given a position of power second only to the ruler of the kingdom. His coat, which his brethren had taken from him (a symbol of his flesh), is replaced with a majestic robe, and every knee is made to bow to him. In his new exalted position he becomes the savior of his brethren, extending forgiveness, and feeding them, as it were, with the bread of life.

It is easy to see why Joseph should hold such a fascination for biblical scholars, as well as for literary figures, such as Thomas Mann, who wrote a four-volume work on the theme of Joseph

and his brothers. . . . Not only is he a great historical and religious figure, but he can also be a personal example to us, a model in our lives.

—Elder Arthur Bassett (Ensign, Sept. 1980, 9)

Elder Hartman Rector Jr. explained:

"[The] ability to turn everything into something good appears to be a godly characteristic. Our Heavenly Father always seems able to do this. Everything, no matter how dire, becomes a victory to the Lord. Joseph, although a slave and wholly undeserving of this fate, nevertheless remained faithful to the Lord and continued to live the commandments and made something very good of his degrading circumstances. People like this cannot be defeated" (Ensign, Jan. 1973, 130).

Are You:

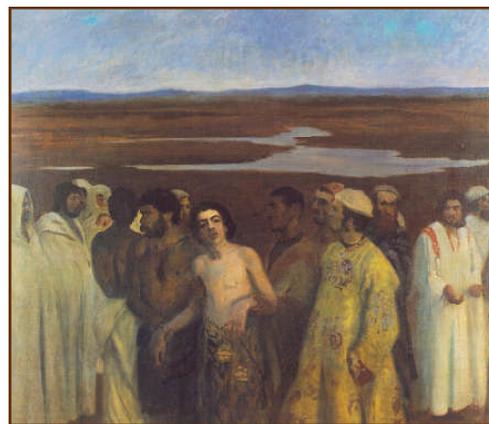
- Resisting the Temptations You Face?
- Being Honest with Yourself and Others?
- Saying Your Prayers and Reading Your Scriptures Daily?

Next Week

Lesson 11

"Fruitful in the Land of My Affliction"

Genesis 40-45



Károly Ferenczy, 1900

Hungarian National Gallery, Budapest

Joseph sold into slavery by his brothers

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