

## **“Stupid Won’t Fix Stupid!”**

09-29-13

Many years ago, at my first position, I lived 6 miles out of the city in a small town. There was a blizzard. I left work and drove to my apartment. When I got there, the driveway along the building where I usually went was filled with a pile of snow. Because I wanted to get in my apartment and rest at the end of week, figuring the pile wasn’t that high, I came up with what I thought was a great idea!

I backed my 1973 Volvo up, which had no pickup at all, and gunned it to go through the snow. What a stupid idea! My car got stuck and was buried up to the axles. I opened the driver’s door and tried to push the car, and snow came barreling in filling my car. I went in my apartment to get some rest.

I went to my friends in the neighborhood to borrow a shovel and began the process of digging the snow from under my car. After about 2 hours of digging, and the help of a neighbor pushing, I got my car into its parking spot. The whole experience proved once again, *“Stupid Won’t Fix Stupid!”*

Open to Genesis 39. We’ve all been caught thinking we can do something because we think no one will know, and we’ll get away with it! When we do that, it many times makes matters worse. One thing we need to remember is, Don’t make matters worse but doing something you’ll regret!

Joseph was blessed by God and did what was part of God’s plan. He didn’t try to do things his way but God’s way! Verses 2-6, *“The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house for Joseph’s sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field. So he left all that he had in Joseph’s charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.”*

But Joseph had a problem and that problem was Potiphar’s wife! Joseph was very good looking and Potiphar’s wife didn’t care that she was married to an powerful man or not, she wanted whatever she wanted! And what she wanted was Joseph! She grabbed his clothes, she touched his hands, she invited him to her bedroom. It didn’t matter to her!

But Joseph, as he followed God, knew that actions have consequences! Potiphar’s wife was following what the world says: “Do what you want, you won’t get caught!” She didn’t care, and when Joseph didn’t do what she wanted, she falsely accused him of something he didn’t do.

Joseph didn’t allow even a beautiful, powerful woman to cause him to stray from God’s Will. The lesson we can learn from him is, “Do what pleases God!”

Joseph placed loyalty to God above lusts. He was passionate about pleasing God. You and I face temptations each and every day. Satan continually tries hard to have us fall. He’s been at this since the Garden of Eden.

He tempted Jesus Christ in the wilderness. Jesus could have fallen, but if He did, our salvation would have been lost! If Satan can’t destroy you in one place, he’ll come after you somewhere else! 1 Peter 5:8-9a tells us, *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith.”*

Open to 1 Corinthians 10. The one thing you need to remember is even when temptation stares you in the face, God is always in control, you aren’t! Look at verses 12-13, *“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted*

*beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” That’s God’s promise to you!*

Above all else, when we’re faced with temptation, we need to resist and follow the words of Psalm 4:5, *“Do what is right as a sacrifice to the Lord and trust in the Lord.”* It’s not the time to follow the world! It’s not the time to follow our ideas of what’s right! We need to follow Jesus Christ!

You won’t fix a marriage with an affair! You won’t fix a debt with more debt! You won’t fix an addiction with another one! You don’t get out of a mess by making another one! Instead, look to God for guidance and rely on Him alone! You’ll never go wrong doing what’s right!

Based on the words that close the chapter: *“Turbulent times will tempt you to forget God. Shortcuts will lure you. Sirens will call you. But don’t be foolish or naïve. Do what pleases God. Nothing more, nothing less. And for heaven’s sake, think twice before you do something stupid!”*