

Cultural Thinkholes: Compromise

Series: Cultural Thinkholes (Sermon #2)

October 24, 2010

Scripture

Philippians 4:8-9

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Genesis 39:1-23

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So he left in Joseph's care everything he had; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. 12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. 13 When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, 14 she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. 15 When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house." 16 She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. 17 Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. 18 But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. 20 Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, 21 the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. 23 The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Engage

Thinkholes are patterns of thought that pull people into unhealthy and unbiblical attitudes and habits. What are some of the Thinkholes that our culture tries to sell us?

Discuss

1. Read Philippians 4:8-9. What are some truths we learn from this verse? How often do we fight patterns of unhealthy thinking in our mind?
2. What does compromise mean? What does the word imply? When is compromise okay? When is compromise not okay?
3. How do most people you know decide what is right and wrong? What are some of the choices? (legal, moral, what others are doing, what the best person is doing, worst person is doing, God's word)

Do we sometimes resort to a different standard when we want to compromise?

4. Right is that which lines up with the character of God. How do we apply this truth?
5. Do you agree with the statement, "Right is right even if nobody is doing it?" When are some times in history that nobody seemed to be doing right? Have you ever been in a situation when you had to be the lone voice, or at least leave the situation?
6. How important is purity? Why does it matter to God? Why does it matter to others?
7. How is it possible to dwell on and practice right? Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 39. What do we learn from this example?
8. What are some results of compromise? What are the results of a holy life?

Challenge

Are there any areas of your life where you have compromised? If so, make some changes this week to reflect your faith in God.

We all need to commit to spending time in God's word so that we know His character well.

Other Passages Cited

Romans 6:12-14

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

Romans 6:18-19

8 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

9 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

1 Peter 1:15

Colossians 4:1

1 Timothy 5:22

Prov. 20:11

Gal 5:16-17

1 Cor. 10:13

Prov. 20:7