



Desire Ability

Mastering the Hits of the Mrs.

May 31, 2026

Today we put ourselves in Joseph's very adult shoes, to learn how to stand strong when seduced!

So first off: **What are your dominating desires?** Which of your *inner desires bullies* the rest? Cuz we all have *competing desires*. As Paul so famously, thankfully, humbly confessed:

I do not understand my own actions. [He sees something within acting with bewildering independence] For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. [So whatever it is, it's currently in charge] ... I have the DESIRE to do what is right, but not the ABILITY to carry it out. [My good desires can't overpower this dominating evil! Be it fear or pride or sheer laziness] For I do not do the GOOD I want, but the EVIL I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now [let's apply logic] if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. – Romans 7:15-20 ESV



The Lord here reveals a *stunning, troubling, downright disturbing reality*. **The battle within is not between your two sides** (good and evil). **It's the true you He created vs. a parasite impersonating you**. Here's His logic. **If you're at war, you can't be on both sides**. And the *you* the Lord created, in His image, is the *side inside* that desires the good. And, **the leech waging war has wormed its way in**. Which means, when we sin, **we are guilty of giving in to the deceiving desire of our invader**. After all:

The *leech* has two daughters— *Give and Give!* – Proverbs 30:15 NKJ

So, which of your desires dominates the *true you*? **The deceitful ones that coax compromise?** Or: **the Christ-like ones that keep the hell-bent in check?** Our intruder's favorite weapon is **FOMO**. The *fear of missing out*. Repeatedly, even *daily*, we're *hit* with the *lie* that we gotta *grab* what we can, when we can, while we can, or we'll *miss out* on all the *good* stuff the good Lord refuses to *Give and Give* us. And this *blood-sucker*, this *force*, this *parasitic conniver* is *personified* in Proverbs as the *immoral, adulterous temptress*.

With the *attire* of a *harlot*, and a *crafty heart* ... [she says] "I have spread my bed with tapestry, colored coverings of *Egyptian* linen. ... Come, let us **TAKE** our **FILL** of love until *morning*; [when reality and regret set in; because *true love is given, not taken*] ... For my husband ... has gone on a *long journey*" [It's the *upside down* of Jesus' parable of the *faithful servants*] ... With her *flattering lips* she *seduced* him ... as an *ox* goes to the *slaughter* ... Do not let your *heart* turn *aside* ... to [her] *chambers of death*. – Proverbs 7:10-27 NKJ

This *vixen*, *hunting a victim* – *poison* masquerading as *pleasure* – is the *nemesis* of *wisdom*.

And *nothing* you *desire* [says Proverbs] can compare with [wisdom]. – Proverbs 8:11 NIV



So: **What's your master desire?** The *driving force* that forces *all other drives to fall in line?* Proverbs warns with the *adulterous seduction* of the Mrs. and a young man, because the *sex drive* is most *formidable* and most *common*, and *best serves* as an *overall analogy* for all other *deceitful driving forces* that *fall eternally short* of the *joy ride* they *deviously promise*. Joseph faced the *trials of rejection, betrayal, and deprivation*. Then came *promotion, success and authority*, and the *temptations* that *accompany* being given *charge of everyone and everything ... including the Mrs.* But, of *all his many battles*, the *seduction of Mrs. Potiphar* is by *far the most ... entertaining*. Sorry Joe; *just is*. Cuz our Creator *wired us* with a *heightened awareness* of all things *sexual*, and a *heightened desire* for all things *spiritual*. And, **sexuality and spirituality go hand in hand – it's lust and love that are at war.**

So the *saga of little Joe*, offers us *frank insight* into *standing strong* in our *faith* when *desire*, in whatever *form*, makes us *weak in the knees*. Know why she so desired *Joseph*? Cuz he was so *very desira-ble*. As you may recall:

Joseph found favor in [Potiphar's] eyes and ... [he] put him in *charge* of his household, and he *entrusted* to his *care* everything he owned. ... [But] Joseph was well-built and handsome, [and in the house] and after a while his master's wife took notice of [NKJ: "cast *longing eyes* on"] Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" – Genesis 39:4-7 NIV

That's *not* a Scripture you really expect to see ... if you're *unaware* of the *unabashed* matter-of-frankness of God's Word. EXPLICIT WARNING: **The writers of Scripture were unblushing when discussing sexuality and spirituality.** Because **compartmentalizing the two is another tool of the Mrs. within.** Our Creator *designed* our *sex drive* as an *expression of love and intimacy*, as well as a *self-reproducing assembly line of humanity*. And He *gave us* an *owner's manual*. And we *hit the road!* Now, *outside* of that *racy "Song of Solomon,"* Scripture *rarely* describes *physical attractiveness*. But *when* I went *looking for examples*, I was surprised to see these *three stunners*:

[Joseph's great-grandma, Sarah was] ... a woman *beautiful to behold* – Genesis 12:11 RSV

[And Joseph's grandma, Rebecca] ... was *very beautiful to behold* – Genesis 24:16 NKJ

[And Joseph's mother] Rachel had a *lovely figure* and was *beautiful*. – Genesis 29:17 NIV



And Joseph *inherited those genes!* And I'm in *no way excusing* the Mrs. But, if you *feed his Biblical description, job-title, setting, and period-correct clothing* into an *A.I. image generator*, you can certainly see the *hubba-hubba attraction!* But when it comes to the Mrs., **his looks weren't a blessing as much as a testing.**

Cuz this kind of *authority* and *physique*, attract a *unique set of trials and temptations*. I'll bet. So I'm told. That to say, **our leech uses our factory-installed biology and basic survival instinct against us.** When Jesus told His disciples what He was *about to suffer*, Peter said what Jesus' *human heart and survival instinct* would want to hear: "You don't have to *suffer and die*. We'll *fight to save You*." But **Jesus wouldn't hear of it.** Because, **Jesus knew the source of it.**

And imagine the shock when He confronted it, with one of His most famous orders ever:



“Get behind Me, Satan! [“Back in line!”] ... For you are not setting your mind on the things of God” [set your desires in order] – Matthew 16:23 ESV

For the joy set before Him [Jesus] endured the cross – Hebrews 12:2 NIV



Because *rightly, joyfully, firmly ordered desires begin and end* with God’s love. First, His for us. Then ours for Him. Because, you are and will always be His supreme love. Which means, **you are your Master’s master desire.**



Now, Scripture says that **Joseph is super-handsome, not super-human.** Because *this is not* a story about a *well-built, barely-dressed, hot young Hebrew who can’t be tempted.* That’s the Sunday School version. Joe’s in his *early twenties. Single. Lonely.* And *deprived of a wife.* Suddenly *living with a seductive socialite who kicked the tires and no doubt started his engine by saying what his aching human heart so desired to hear.* This story is about a *deprived servant facing a depraved Mrs. and the toughest test and biggest battle of his life!* Daniel’s faith was tested and proven in *one night in a lion’s den.* Poor Joseph will be tested and proven while *living in a cougar cage!* Sure it’s a *mansion and a dream job,* but **if you’re enslaved it’s still a cage.** Egyptian women, like many of you ladies, used *eye liner, lipstick, rouge, perfume, and whatever it took.* This 3,400 year-old *beauty box* from Joseph’s day, belonged to a *gal named Merit.* In fact, they found her *entire bedroom intact!* Which is the *central element* of our story. Because:



[The Mrs.] said, “Come to *bed* with me!” ... And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refuuuuused [that’s drawn out when chanted in synagogues to signify his struggle] to go to bed with her or even be with her. – Genesis 39:7, 10 NIV



Cuz if you *find* yourself inside the *cage,* where’s the *safest place?* **As far from the cougar as possible!** “Let’s talk in private.” “Sit beside me.” “Rub my back.” The *first step* isn’t a *sin,* but he’s *wise enough to know that it leads to the slaughter house.* Because *counterfeit joy-rides always, always, always take us further than we want to go, keep us longer than we want to stay, and cost us far more than we want to pay.* Her *seduction* wasn’t a *one-time offer,* it was a *relentless, persistent, day-after-day onslaught of enticements, engineered to wear down resistance.* Besides *makeup,* we’re talking *flattery, giggles, touches, and clothing ... or lack thereof.* This 4,600 year-old, Egyptian *beadnet dress,* from Joseph’s era, could be worn with or without a *slip.* Depending on the *heat ... and the temperature!* In the *spy world,* a *honey-pot* is a woman who *sets a trap with flirting and romance and sex to lure her target into ignorantly giving away what he’d normally guard and protect at all cost.* The *honey* is the *bait;* the *pot* is the *trap.* And day after day *Mrs. Honey-Pot-iphar stalks and pursues and hits on Joseph, purring the persuasive words of a temptress on the prowl.*



Much like the **predatory desire of our intruder who prowls our heart like a lion seeking to devour**. Just imagine the ego-puffing that went into Mrs. P's trap. Do you think he enjoyed the fawning and grooming of his powerful, sensual superior? Who says "YES!" and who says "I don't know how humans work"? And his refuuuuuussing could (and will) cost him everything. And he knows it. But that's what makes his faithfulness in the face of her unfaithfulness, and his refusal to bow to his diabolical and biological inner desires so astounding and inspiring!

So, **how'd he do it?** Or rather, *not do it?* **He took his deepest thoughts and desires to God**. And frontloaded forceful reasons, and motivations, and ammunition, for staying true. Day after day. And we're given just a sample of his well-reasoned and obviously rehearsed refusals.

"Come to bed with me!" ... "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; ["The true me would not trade that for sex." "Well aren't you the boy scout. Come to bed with me!"] everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ["To break that trust for sex would be the most uncaring thing ever." "You're soo tense; come to bed with me!"] No one is greater in this house than I am. ["If we had sex, no one would be more greatly disgraced!" "Who's gonna know? Now come to bed with me!"] My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. ["You're the tree of good and evil! It's adult-tree." "Don't be such a goody-two-sandals; come to bed with me!"] How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" - Genesis 39:8-9 NIV

You see, if we fail to see how forcefully he's tempted by the Mrs., we'll miss how passionately he loves God! **His final point is the only one he asks as a question:** "How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Because it's all about what the heart, deep-deep-down, really-really wants. Above all else. So, **he defeats the lesser desire by expressing the greater**. Will power would likely fail him. So **he reaches for want-power**. By reminding himself, over and over, and day after day, that **his true desire is to please the Lord with obedience, rather than the leech with disobedience**. You can almost hear her say, "Well aren't you just the most adorable thing?" Cuz that's how she sees him. A thing. To be conquered. A conquest. Like the immoral Mrs. in Proverbs. **Not as a being to be loved, but a thing to be taken and exploited and dominated**. Which is how every dominating desire sees us, unless it's Jesus.

For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, [and] sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death, [and] her steps lay hold of hell. - Proverbs 5:3-5 NKJ

[Good thing] The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12 NKJ

[And] Your words [O Lord] ... sweeter than honey to my mouth! - Psalm 119:103 NKJ

Which means we must **frontload our want-power before the Mrs. tests our will-power**. Cuz when the heat's on, we can't think straight. Which is why **we gotta prepare our defense while we're clear-headed and true-hearted**. Otherwise we don't stand a chance at dominating our desires and ordering them into line. So, before that invasive parasitic imposter starts sweetly whispering, "Give and Give!" and "take and take," let's **take control and give our heart what it most deeply desires**. **And frontload all our forces**. So Jesus can order every out-of-order desire to fall in line behind Him.