



Reject Victimhood

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 37 – Week of May 21, 2023

1. For those who love God, all things work together for good...

To understand the story of Joseph, we must view events through the lens of the promises of God. First, we see in the beginning that the story is not ideal; the characters are flawed. Jacob was a man riddled with faults. The brothers of Joseph were known for their indiscretions. Furthermore, the story is initiated by blatant partiality from Jacob, in that he proves favoritism toward Joseph in the gift of his robe. This wrongful gift of partiality exasperates what is already a troubled situation. The robe causes the brothers to hate Joseph. From there, prophetic dreams are given to Joseph, and they deepen the division amongst the family members. All these events seem to be conspiring to a heartbreaking climax, in which a family would be broken. Yet, in this moment of seeming turmoil, we must cling to the promises of God. We have to remember that no matter the circumstances, God's sovereign power is orchestrating the events of our lives. Everything is happening for our good and for His glory. This promise of God's faithful goodness is present regardless of how it may appear or feel. The understanding of God's promise undergirds the entire story.

2. Beware Jealousy and Covetousness

Instead of the brothers of Joseph being influenced by the promises of God's faithful goodness, they are fueled by jealousy and hate. God had given to Joseph a portion of blessing that He did not give to them. Instead of humbly rejoicing in the grace of the Lord, the brothers steeped in their rebellion against His works. Their ongoing sinful perspective against their brother, driven by their selfishness, lead them to commit terrible acts. We as Christians need to beware, so that we do not fall into a similar trap. God gives His gifts on whom He chooses, and in the manner that He chooses. Gifts, talent, and resources

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Remember that God does not allow events in our lives to be accidental, but purposeful. We ought to see these events for what they are... the will of God working all things for good, and rejoice. We can look our resurrecting King for the assurance of this belief in which we hope.

Heart

Often our hearts struggle to view challenging circumstances as an opportunity for eventual good. We must take care not to fall into jealousy, covetousness, or discontentment... even when life is difficult

Hands

Spur our hearts and minds onward in Godliness, encouraging one another to avoid sin and trust in the faithful goodness of God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Shane Farewell Party
6/11 @ 1pm

are His to distribute, and our response should be one of gratitude. We should watch our hearts, as to not find ourselves in a similar position to Joseph's brothers.

3. Replace a Victim Mindset with a Sovereign Mindset

In the first chapter of this new series... we see that many things in life happen in ways that cause us despair. Jacob loses his only son, Ruben loses his chance to save Joseph, and Joseph loses his freedom. Yet, we again must apply the fact that God is working all things together for good, for those who love Him and are called by Him. Having the perspective that God is in control, leaves no room for the mentality of victimhood. We know that in Christ, we are more than conquerors, because God has promised that the end must end in victory. Furthermore, we see that God continually uses unfortunate circumstances to bring about good. There is not greater example of this principle than in the crucifixion of Christ. The greatest evil and injustice produced the greatest good.

Read Genesis 37

1. Jacob family shared a characteristic universal amongst all families: disfunction. Still, God uses their improper and sometimes sinister actions to bring about His good will. How have you seen this played out in your life? What verses or mediations encouraged you while you grappled with the tension of evil being used to bring about good?
2. Why must we be on guard against jealousy? What are the consequences of fostering jealousy?
3. We see that throughout scripture, God gives gifts and talents unequally to His children. What should our response be to this information? What ways does this challenge or conflict with our thinking? How do we respond to the conflict?
4. How should Christians handle partiality? Why does God address this issue so strongly? Where do we struggle to handle situations correctly?
5. What is a victimhood mindset? Why is it incompatible with our faith? In what ways is it practically unprofitable?
6. How should we look at/think of dreams? What weight should be placed on them? How do we consider there interpretation and impact?
7. How does the story of Joseph foreshadow the story of Jesus? What do we learn about the Gospel from this passage?