

THE FAITH-REST LIFE IN THE STORY OF JOSEPH Pt. 2

From a Dream to a Nightmare (Genesis 37:5-36)

- The *key truth* about GOD involves learning about His amazing sovereign and gracious _____ in preserving His _____ in keeping with His _____.
- The *key principle* for YOU to learn involves recognizing that regardless of your _____, by God's grace you can _____ in God's unfailing _____ so as to be _____ to Him wherever you are.
- The *key verse* for you to remember is _____ where Joseph is able to declare to his brothers: "But as for you, YOU meant _____ against ME; but _____ meant it for _____, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to _____ many people alive."
- God is willing to save you _____, but He doesn't want to leave you _____, though He is willing to work with you RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE AT.
- **Ephesians 6:1-3:** _____ {the recipients of this instruction}, _____ {this is their primary responsibility - it means to listen attentively to some authority in order to do what is commanded - who are they to obey?} *your* _____ {why?} *in the* _____, *for this is* _____. {It's the right thing to do. It is what God wants? What else?} 2 "_____ *your father and mother,*" *which is the first commandment with promise:* 3 *"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*
- How does this parental respect and honor show itself? By a respectful ...
 - _____ – showing respect to those in authority and not a scoffer or one who rejects correction.
 - _____ – showing respect how you address authorities and speak to them without arguing, cursing, etc.
 - _____ – not w sarcasm, pouting, whining, outbursts
 - _____ – not rolling the eyes, frowns, sticking out one's tongue, etc.
 - _____ – with immediate not delayed obedience.
- How is this parental respect developed in the child? By ...
 - _____ respect.
 - _____ for God, His Word, God's chain of command, etc.
 - _____ to others & earning respect from others.
 - _____ when they show disrespect.
 - _____ for wisdom & consistency by the parents.
 - _____ to do it.
- WHAT Can We LEARN from all this?
 1. It is possible to have a home in which the individuals know the true & living God, yet it experiences destructive dynamics due to repeated _____ against God and each other.
 2. Though children generally repeat the sins of their parents, we are not a _____, and the cycle can be broken by God's grace.
 3. Though our past has influenced and affected us, we can _____ from our past while we need not _____ in it.

4. Though your CULTURE may approve of our sins, _____ does not, yet there is _____ available and _____ by His mercies and grace.

A. The Key PERSON and PLOT of this Chapter: JOSEPH & GOD'S PROVIDENCE

1. His 1st dream and his brother's reaction. (37:5-7) Why use "grain" in this dream?

This symbolic dream would be literally & prophetically fulfilled. The means of fulfilling these dreams, however, was a mystery. How should we understand God speaking in dreams then & today?

2. His brother's understanding and reaction to his dream. (37:8) Did they understand the dream? If so, why did they not welcome them as God's revealed will? How does God view "hatred"?

3. His 2nd dream & he told it again to his brothers and also to his father and we observe their reactions. (37:9-11) Consider Rev. 12:1-6. Why a 2nd dream? What is envy? What did they envy? Who also was envied & mistreated?

4. His faithful obedience to his father. (37:12-14) What do we observe about Joseph's attitude and actions toward his father? What was Jacob thinking?

5. His faithful, persistent seeking of his brothers. (37:15-17) What stands out regarding this?

6. His brothers' conspiracy to murder Joseph: (37:18-20)

7. His brother Reuben's intercession for Joseph. (37:21-22) What can we learn from this?

8. His brothers captured Joseph and cast him in a pit. (37:23-25) How is the callousness of the brothers revealed?

What does Gen. 42:21 tell us? Is it wrong to have emotions? Does this mean we're not walking by faith?

9. His brother Judah's proposal about Joseph. (37:26-27) Was it an accident?

10. His being sold into slavery to Egypt. (37:28) Where is the Lord in all this?

11. His brother Reuben's surprise and grief at these events. (37:29-30)

12. His brothers' deception of Jacob. (37:31-33) What happens when we cover our sins?

13. His father, Jacob's, grieving for Joseph. (37:34-35) Is grief / sorrow appropriate when a loved one dies? {1 Thess. 4:13-14} What does God want to do in all our tribulations? {2 Cor. 1:3-4} Did Jacob react or respond to this trial?

14. His plight and master in Egypt. (37:36) Was God still in control & working out His will?

Some closing lessons:

- 1) Walking by faith involves _____ that God has a providential plan for your life that you can trust, even when it involves mistreatment by others.
- 2) In every trial, you can either _____ by faith or _____ after the flesh.
- 3) When responding by faith, you need to _____ in the promises of God.
- 4) When you sin against the Lord, you can either _____ your sin or seek to _____ it – and both have consequences.