

Genesis 37-38 – 23 January 2020

“The Progression Of Sin In Your Life”

Introduction

*Jacob and his 12 twelve sons are wanderers in the land of Canaan...awaiting God's promises to be fulfilled

*God wants to accomplish great things thru all of us

*Tonight we think specifically of Joseph (Chap 37) and Judah's descendant Pharez (Chap 38)

*There's this tiny little problem of sin that affects them

We'll see today the 4-step progression of sin in life

But we'll also see how God is always offering to take a bad situation and redeem it for your good and His glory.

So Chapter 37 the beginning of the story of Joseph (Chap 37:1-11)

Read 37:1- 4

1. So the beginning of the reasons for their envy and anger.
 - a. Vs 2 – He reported their bad behavior
 - b. Vs 3 – Israel favored him tangibly
2. When you're different than the rest, be careful not to needlessly offend.
 - a. Joseph didn't do anything wrong here
 - b. But he needs to be aware that he is better off than the others.

Read 37:5-8

1. The dream is self-evident to all & they're mad
2. “For his words” – could have kept to himself

Read 37:9-11

1. Flesh(bros) couldn't receive this, but dad could
2. This is used to interpret Rev 12

1st Step in the progression of sin is: Our sin doesn't look that bad at first (Chap 37:12-24)

Read Chap 37:12-18

1. 50 miles then another 20-mile journey.
2. So the thoughts of their heart is to kill Joseph.

Read Chap 37:19-24

1. Reuben talks them out of killing him & just putting him in a pit.
2. Reuben even insinuated that they'll come back and take Joseph out of the pit later.

Application:

1. They backed off from killing him to just imprisoning him, they must think they're wonderful brothers.
2. Like Lot pitching his tent toward Sodom
 - a. "Well I'm not sinning w/ them in Sodom"
3. Like looking at pornography
 - a. "Well I'm not cheating on my wife"

2nd Step in the progression of sin is: Our sin will take us further than we want to go (Chap 37:25-32)

Read Chap 37:25-28

1. They're so carnally minded that they can still eat while their brother is crying from the pit.
2. So their abandoning of Joseph turns into selling him to slave traders.

Read Chap 37:29-32

1. Selling of Joseph leads to cover up of the sin.
2. Carnal vs Spirit
 - a. Carnal man thinks to cover up (Fig leaves)
 - b. Spiritual man thinks to repent, it's never too late to repent.

Application:

1. Sin - web that pulls more things than you plan.
2. Like Lot – found his quest for riches, led to perversion in and around his house
3. Like pornography – will lead to real encounters

Reaction of Israel to the deception (Chap 37:33-36)

Read Chap 37:33-35

1. Sin leaves u callous & you don't even know it.
2. Life, Death and Resurrection Principle
 - a. Joseph had a life with the family of God
 - b. Joseph became dead to his family & himself
 - c. Joseph will be 'resurrected' in Egypt later

Read Chap 37:36

1. God is always working things to His glory.
2. *God knows how to take a bad situation and turn it around for His glory.*
 - a. *God will use Joseph later to save alive the very ones who so evil treated him.*
 - b. *God will use Joseph later preserve a whole nation to protect His chosen people.*

Chap 38 opens with the story of Judah and Tamar

Read Chap 38:1-2

1. Adullam was 15 miles NW of Hebron
2. The same Judah that had the plan to sell Joseph, now shows his disrespect for God in intermarrying with a Canaanite, Shuah's daughter.
3. These bad stories aren't here to glorify sin but b/c these men are those that lead to the Messiah

3rd Step in the progression of sin is: Our sin will affect our family (Chap 38:3-10)

Read Chap 38:3-6

1. Judah & Shuah's daughter had 3 sons
2. Oldest son Er married Tamar.

Read Chap 38:7-8

1. Levirate marriage was common in culture.
2. God would institute it in the Law of Moses.
3. Designed to keep the family name w/ 1st born

Read Chap 38:9-10

1. So Onan intentionally didn't want to have kids, b/c he knew he wouldn't benefit from kids in his brother's name.
2. 1st two sons of Judah were so wicked, God struck them down.

Application:

1. Judah was the biggest role-model to his family
2. The environment, culture and lifestyle Judah created around his family had a big effect.
3. Like Lot – Daughters raised in Sodom thought it quite normal to commit incest to have kids.
4. Like the man who yelled, “Why are my kids always yelling?”

Judah's lying & selfishness (Chap 38:11-14)

Read Chap 38:11-14

1. Judah wanted to be free from the pledge that he had with Tamar (her being his son's wife)
2. Some think sin is only doing something that you shouldn't do.
 - a. Sin is also not doing something that you should do.
 - b. Read Jam 4:17

4th Step in the progression of sin is: Our sin will bite us back if no repentance (Chap 38:15-26)

Read Chap 38:15-19

1. Her payment for fornication = a sheep or goat
2. He left his staff, etc as collateral

Read Chap 38:20-23

1. Judah didn't even want to keep searching for her.
 - a. Would bring shame just asking for a harlot.
 - b. He feels "clean" & "honest" b/c he tried honoring his part of a sinful bargain.
2. Meanwhile, Tamar designed this to prove he's the one she was with the night she got pregnant.

Read Chap 38:24

1. "How could she"...what hypocrisy
2. His words of integrity and loyalty don't line up with his heart and actions.
 - a. The integrity of our words is worthless if our actions betray them. (Repeat)
 - b. Turn to II Sam 12:1-5 – David and Nathan

Read Chap 38:25-26

1. His sin has bitten him back.
2. He was worry about a little shame in trying to find a harlot, now he has to admit he was w/ her!

Application:

1. Read Gal 6:7-8 – What u sow, you'll reap
2. Exp of Possessing land of Canaan (Num 32)
 - a. Gad and Reuben wanted to stay in their new land and not go any further with other tribes.
 - b. They asked Moses if they could stay
 - c. Turn to Num 32:20-23
 - d. Their lack of doing what was right would be sinful and would be revealed.
 - e. Praise God, they did honor the deal!
 - f. Not so much for Judah

God works for His glory in a bad situation (Chap 38:27-30)

Read Chap 38:27-30

1. God is always working things to His glory.
2. *God knows how to take a bad situation and turn it around for His glory.*
 - a. *God will use Pharez later to bring the Messiah!*
 - b. What Judah meant for evil, God used for good to bless Pharez and his lineage
 - c. Turn to Ruth 4:11b-12
 - d. Turn to Ruth 4:18-22
3. Tamar is the beginning of a lineage leading to Christ that will include 4 Gentile women
 - a. Tamar, Rahab, Ruth & Bathsheba
4. God knows how to show great grace!
 - a. I believe God shows that great grace to Judah b/c of his repentance & intercession for Benjamin b4 Joseph (Gen 44) regarding cup.

Conclusion –

Today we've seen the 4-step progression of sin in life

1. Our sin doesn't look that bad at first
 - a. "I'm not cheating on my wife, I'm only looking..."
2. Our sin will take us farther than we want to go
 - a. Always seems to be something to cover up
3. Our sin will affect our family
 - a. Our kids don't pay for the "sins of the father" but they're susceptible to fall for the sins you never role-modeled how to beat. (Repeat)
4. Our sin will bite us back if no repentance

Next time you're tempted to sin, try this one on:

As Peter was tempted to walk away from Christ and serve other pursuits in life, Jesus said

(Turn to John 21:15)

When you're tempted, pretend Christ is right there whispering to you, "Lovest thou these more than Me?"