

January 19th – Beware of Jealousy

*“His brothers envied him, but his father kept the matter in mind.”  
(Gen. 37:11)*

I bet you're familiar with the story of Joseph. What an amazing story it is! It all started with a young man who was dearly beloved by his father, Jacob (Israel). The Bible says, “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children because he was the son of his old age. Also, he made him a tunic of many colors” (Gen. 37:3). Clearly it was not wise for Jacob to play favorites with his children and to give Joseph special treatment, so he bears some of the blame for what happened to his son.

Yet, the way Joseph's brothers dealt with their father's favoritism leaves much to be desired. The Word says, “they hated him (Joseph) and could not speak peaceably to him” (Gen. 37:4). In the process of time, Joseph's brothers crafted a plan to get rid of him and make it look like he was killed by a wild beast. The brothers took Joseph, lowered him into a pit, removed his coat of many colors, and finally sold him into slavery for 20 shekels of silver.

Why would a group of brothers even consider such a horrible plan? Because they were consumed with jealousy. They yearned for the favor that their father showed to Joseph, and when they couldn't garner their father's special love they decided to take matters into their own hands. The lesson is simple – jealousy will poison us from the inside-out. May God help us to be content with all He's done for us – “godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6).