



Steadfast Bible Fellowship

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Dear Steadfast Omaha,

In Genesis 37:12-36, we find Joseph, out of faithful obedience to his father, going to check on his brothers who were pasturing their flocks near Shechem. When Joseph arrived in Shechem, he learned that his brothers had actually moved onto Dothan. Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they wanted him dead, so they devised a plan to kill him. They were attempting to remove any possibility of the dreams Joseph told them about, actually being fulfilled (5-11). Reuben, prevented them from killing Joseph, and intended to return Joseph to Jacob, but the other brothers had different plans. When Joseph arrived, they stripped him of the multicolored robe his father had given him and threw him into a deep pit. Then, they sat down and ate! There was no remorse at all. They took great pleasure in the forceful removal of the robe and in destroying any possibility of Joseph's dreams being fulfilled. Their hearts were so hard that they end up selling Joseph to a group of Midianite traders who were on their way to Egypt. In their minds, Joseph was done with and they would never have to deal with him again. But, that's not how God works and that's not how sin works. Immediately they had to devise a plan to deceive their father about what happened to Joseph. They dipped Joseph's robe in the blood of a freshly slaughtered male goat and brought it to their dad to examine to see if it was Joseph's. Jacob is deceived into believing that a vicious animal devoured Joseph. His favorite son was dead and he was convinced that he would carry this grief with him to the grave. Jacob was so distraught that he refused to be comforted. It's interesting to note that Jacob had already forgotten the dreams Joseph had. At the end of the chapter, there is an important verse that the author felt compelled to include (36). He had just addressed the deception of the brothers and Jacob's grief filled response. In contrast to the brothers and Jacob, the author points out that Joseph is

safely in Egypt, and is no ordinary field slave, but is in a place of higher responsibility. God made sure that Joseph was sold to one of Pharaoh's chief officers. His name was Potiphar and he was the head of Pharaoh's personal bodyguards. The contrast must not be missed. There is grief and betrayal in Hebron while God has Joseph right where He wants him in Egypt. As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Do I understand the depth of the pit of sin?** Proverbs 28:13a says, "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper." Joseph's brother's tried to prove this verse wrong and failed. It looks as if they got away with it, but as we will see, their consciences bothered them for years. A guilty conscience is a terrible thing to live with. Sin not only impacts you, but also those around you. Sin devastates, destroys, divides, and causes death.
- **Do I understand that God's providence is still at work in the pit of sin and devastation?** What must you remember as God's faithful servant while in the depth of the pit? God is in control! He will accomplish His plans even when people are at their worst. God in no way approves of sinful behavior and the awful treatment of others, but He is so great that He can take what looks like an impossible situation to us and still accomplish His purposes.
- **Do I believe that God's presence is with me in the good and challenging times of life?**

Rejoicing in Him,

Pastor Matt