



Steadfast Bible Fellowship

2440 SOUTH 141ST CIRCLE
OMAHA, NE 68144

Dear Steadfast Omaha,

As we begin our journey through the life of Joseph, we must remember that this is ultimately a story about God. If you were not able to be there on Sunday, I want to encourage you to get online and listen to the message. To understand the magnitude of the story of Joseph we must understand that God is a God of providence. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and is sovereignly at work in this world accomplishing His plans and purposes through both good and challenging circumstances. The story of Joseph is about God, in His providence, working out His sovereign plan to fulfill His promise to Abraham. God's promise to Abraham involved the redemption of mankind through Jesus Christ!

Joseph grew up in an incredibly dysfunctional home. He had a father named Jacob who was very passive. While there was one father in the home, there were four different mothers, 12 sons, and a daughter. Jacob's first two wives competed against each other and the wife that Jacob loved the most had the fewest kids. Add two concubines into the mix and you have one crazy environment. From the time Joseph was born, Jacob loved him more than his other kids because he was born to Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. Not only did he love Joseph more, he also showed favoritism towards Joseph, which in a home with a bunch of competitive boys, was a recipe for disaster. Jacob made Joseph a multicolored robe. It was a long sleeve, richly ornamented robe that went to Joseph's ankles. It was hardly a robe a shepherd would wear and was Jacob's way of saying that Joseph would be the heir. The sin of Reuben (Genesis 35:22), who was the first born of Leah, resulted in the birthright being transferred to the first born of Rachel (Jacob's favorite wife) and that was Joseph. When Joseph was seventeen years of age, he was sent to check on his brothers, who were

pasturing the flocks. Whatever they were doing was bad enough that Joseph felt the need to bring a negative report back to his father. Joseph's brothers hated him! They hated him so much that they could not even speak a kind word to him. Genesis 37:5-11 tells us that Joseph had two dreams that he told his brothers about. The second dream he also conveyed to his father. In both dreams his brothers were bowing down to him. The dreams were pictures of him ruling over his brothers and his father. As you can imagine, the brothers hated Joseph even more after hearing about the dreams. As you seek to apply Genesis 37:1-11 to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Am I living passively or intentionally?** Passivity is the enemy of growth and the friend of destruction. Are you living passively or intentionally as a follower of Jesus, as a husband or wife, as a parent, as a student, etc...?
- **Am I trusting in the providence of God?** Do I truly believe that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and is sovereignly at work in this world accomplishing His plans and purposes through both good and challenging circumstances?

Rejoicing in Him,

Pastor Matt