

Intro: This morning we are covering a portion of the life of a man by the name of Joseph. To cover his whole life you could take weeks if not months. The bible in Gen dedicates 14 Chapters to his life.

One of the most beautiful stories of redemption ever given. There's family, tragedy, betrayal, setback and victory in this man's life but what's hard pressed in between all that is the wonderful truth that God is faithful to His word. Faithful to His promises.

But we will be tested. Expected to grow in the pits of life. To receive God's will, the way God wills is in order to bring about His glory.

This is our 4th sermon in our series "The Young and the Restless", where we've been exhorting our young people to grow and live for the Lord even at a young age by these wonderful stories in the bible of real people that were passionate about the God they served.

Just like all "real" people there are highlights in life and there are lowlights in life. Joseph's highlight reel would have him all dressed up in gold n glory. The 2nd in command of the biggest nation in the world.

That's how his life would end. But that's not where we learn from his life. And Joseph would tell us that's not where he learned from his life either. And may I say this to our young people???? I know I'mma sound old..... but I remember a time before there were microwaves.

- When you couldn't just add water and push a button but you had to use the stove
- When you went through the drive thru and you still had to wait.
- When you had to fast forward through other songs to get to the song you wanted.

What I'm saying is with each generation get things faster n faster. We expect our spiritual growth, our life success to come as fast as the touch on our screen. And yet God wants to develop us, like the fruit on a tree. It needs time. There are seasons, wind & rain that a tree goes through before it bears fruit.

- ***** Jesus said **You didn't choose me I chose you, I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit** (fruit that remains)
- How do you produce lasting fruit? God does it! (explain)
- ***** **Ps 1:1-3** Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. NKJV

This is Joseph! “And whatever he does shall prosper” Well then how does he end up in a pit? Gen 37:23-24 read

How does a 17yr old young man of God who doesn’t walk in the counsel of ungodly people nor stands in their paths with them, nor sits along side their scornful ways, but instead delights in God’s word and meditates on it day and nightfind himself in a pit?

- Because of a dream! A vision , a calling God gave him for his life.
- Sometimes God will give you this calling, this vision, this dream for your life. Then darken it by a pit experience to ask “Do you trust me know?”
 - Noah – build a boat it’s gonna flood. (They mocked him until it rained)
 - Abraham – get up and take your family far from here to a land I will give to you and your descendants. He didn’t even have a child. And he didn’t until about 100yrs old. But he would tell us today the journey of faith was well worth it.
 - Moses – your gonna lead my people out of Egypt. Then God hardens Pharaohs heart! “Do you trust me now?” (the list goes on)
- Sometimes God will give you this calling, this vision this dream for your life then darken it by a pit experience to ask you “Do you trust me know?”

So lets take a look and see what happened to Joseph before he was thrown into this situation.

1-4 I. JOSEPHS LIFE AT HOME

2 A. Brought up in a blended environment.

1. Brought a bad report of his brothers.

3-4 B. Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers.

1. Because Joseph was Rachel's son.
2. But also because Joseph was obedient.
3. His father knew he could trust him, he was a young man of integrity.

3b C. So what does His father do....makes him tunic!

1. Sense of entitlement, Position, Acceptance, favoritism etc.
2. Not a working garment. Garment of privilege n status.

5-11 II. JOSEPHS DREAMS

A. Josephs dream may have been for him alone.

1. There may be a hint of pride or arrogance.
2. **"I've got this Tunic!"**; Got Dads favor; now these dreams!
 - a. That I will be a leader above you guys.
3. Joseph the tunic has nothing to do with the dream!
4. God revealed His will for Josephs life early so that he could remove the thing that would hinder him when he got there!
 - a. Joseph, God's leader must be empty of pride and arrogance.
5. "Joseph I have to remove your tunic. I must put the dream in a dark pit. For now Joseph. For now"
 - a. God is not like man, He doesn't change his mind. It's all part of the plan. "I showed you what I would do but not how I would do it"
6. I don't know if it was absolutely wrong for Joseph to tell his brothers his dream, but had they listened it would've prepared them for some of the decisions they would make later.

7. But Joseph, knew his brothers had a hate for him and didn't follow their Father nor the Lord passionately as he did.

a. Jesus said Matt 7:6 "Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. NASU

12-20 III. TRYING TO DO THE RIGHT THING

A. Joseph is sent by his dad to go check on his brothers. He's just trying to do the right thing. "Alright maybe I shouldn't have shared with you guys that God was gonna raise me up above you guys. Maybe I should've just let it happen quietly. Been more sensitive and respectful of you as my older brothers, but I'm here now to help.

1. Dad sent me to you guys to see how you were doing.....
2. All they see is that darn tunic.
3. vs18 "Now when they see him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him"
 - a. You wear that thing like a badge of honor.
 - b. It's an eye sore.
4. The problem may be two fold. Maybe Joseph is still carrying this thing around pridefully; maybe not. But the problem is also with the brothers and their uncontrollable envy.
 - a. You may be the one in the family that is favored. If you are there would come with that the responsibility to reach out in humbleness and try to be sensitive to the one's that may be feeling envious and unloved.

B. Obviously the brothers are envious because of the favor Joseph has with his father, but they're also envious of the favor he has with God.

1. vs 20 "Come now let us cast him into some pit and see what shall come of his dreams"
2. People can try all they want but they can't kill a dream God gives.
3. They can't kill the plan God has for your life.
4. And even if you got some things to learn, to grow thru, God's gonna have His way in your life. Even when it seems He's not.

21-24 IV. PREPARED IN THE PIT