

Week 1: Joseph's Dreams

Text: Genesis 37:1-11

I. Intro

- A. Our plan for this series:
 - 1. Read every word of the story
 - 2. Study through the teaching points
 - 3. Grow to trust God's plan and walk in His plan.
 - 4. Each week we will have families read the selected passage for the week, and each week we will see how the story connects to Christ.
- B. The Introduction to the story of Joseph:
 - 1. 11th son of Jacob (Israel) who has his own sordid story
 - 2. Mother: Rachel, favorite wife of Jacob
 - 3. Date: Somewhere near 2000 bc
- C. Themes: Leadership, Loyalty, Favor, Character, Courage, Grace, Forgiveness, Sovereign plan (each week different ones will be more obvious)
- D. Key Verse: (all the way to the end of the story) [Gen 50:20 ESV] 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
- E. 7 P's:
 - 1. Promise: Without the promise/prophecy, there would be no pit
 - 2. Pit: Without the pit there would be no Potiphar
 - 3. Potiphar: Without Potiphar there would be no prison
 - 4. Prison: Without the prison there would be no palace
 - 5. Palace: Without the palace there would be no power
 - 6. Power: Without the power there would be no provider
 - 7. Provider: Without the provider there would be no life.
- F. Type/Antitype: Joseph is an example of messiah, but not the messiah
 - 1. Type is an old testament reference to a new testament fulfillment
 - 2. We have an example, we are reminded of the plan and promise

II. Text: Genesis 37

- A. Verses 1-4: Joseph was hated by His brothers because of the love the father showed Him.
- B. Verses 5-8: Joseph has a prophetic dream and the brothers hated him even more
- C. Verses 9-10: another statement of God's plan for Joseph
 - 1. If they had known the end of the story it would have made sense
 - 2. Instead it just made them angry
- D. Verse 11
 - 1. The Brothers and Parents were concerned about the dreams, but for different reasons
 - 2. Brothers were jealous
 - 3. Jacob remembered and pondered

III. Application Points:

- A. God's favor
 - 1. God's favor is an interesting thing, it does not always show immediate results of blessing, but its always God's favor
 - 2. He loves you, He wants to bless you, and he wants you to trust him
 - 3. He also knows the bigger picture and clearly works to accomplish this bigger picture
 - 4. Sometimes the short term challenge or difficulty gets all our attention, yet the favor of God has not changed
 - 5. God's favor will sometimes move us from where we are to where we can experience His favor
 - a) This means we have to move

- b) Moving from the known to the unknown is usually a huge challenge
 - c) Going through the circumstances that compel us to move usually requires a conversation with God asking Him what He is up to.
- 6. When you are completely yielded to Him, the trust you express is building your faith.
- B. God's plan
 - 1. We see the reality of just how involved God was in this detailed plan, He was all the way involved:
 - a) [Gen 50:20 ESV] 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.
 - b) God meant this entire story for good, for His good purposes
 - c) Even the parts of the plan that were challenging and uncomfortable were used by God to accomplish the plan.
 - 2. Joseph is not on record as ever questioning that plan
 - a) This may be the greatest miracle in the entire story
 - b) Sometimes its the things that you don't read that tell the fullness of the story
 - c) To be fair, it doesn't say if he did or did not complain and question God
 - d) But He had to wonder...but it seems his wondering turned to faith
 - 3. The plan is full of moments and years of misfortune, but also full of blessing and long term security in the plan of God
 - 4. To live in God's plan:
 - a) Submit yourself to Him every day, no matter what
 - b) Serve where He sends you.
 - c) Every day will not be marked with complete obedience, but if you are where God wants you to be you can continue to experience His plan.
 - d)
- C. Christ Connection
 - 1. Jesus was not the messiah the Jewish people were looking for or wanted
 - 2. They wanted a warrior that would physically destroy the Roman Empire, but they got a messiah that would provide something they needed even more.
 - 3. The promises God made for rescue were met with disdain and disbelief
 - a) Joseph was given a dream that showed he would be worshipped by His family
 - b) Jesus was shown to be messiah and worthy of worship from all people
 - c) Joseph's dreams presented God's plan for the rescue of His people
 - d) Jesus was revealed to the nations to be rightfully exalted and worshipped above all creation
 - e) We will see:
 - (1) Joseph is rejected, to fulfill the plan of God
 - (2) Jesus is rejected, to fulfill the plan of God
 - 4. Salvation comes through Christ alone
 - a) It has always been His plan
 - b) Many will reject this truth for various reasons, but the truth remains.

IV. Close

- A. Jesus is our rescue and our Lord
- B. [Phl 2:9-11 ESV] 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- C. God's plan for salvation is only Jesus
 - 1. Don't reject Him
 - 2. Simply receive Him!
- D. Have you received Him, or are you like the brothers and rejecting the truth
- E. Step out in faith and receive the truth today!