

Joseph Betrayed Genesis 37:12-36

I. Intro

A. 7 P's

1. Promise/Prophecy
2. Pit
3. Potiphar
4. Prison
5. Palace
6. Power
7. Provider

B. Key Verse: [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.

C. We have seen the prophecy, today we see the pit.

D. It doesn't get much worse than betrayal, but being thrown in a pit does make it worse.

E. God's grace is also found in the uncertainty and lack of knowing what is coming next in our lives.

II. Text

A. Dothan:

1. do'-than (dothayin, dothan, "two wells," "double feast"; Dothaeim): A place to the North of Shechem whither Jacob's sons went for pasture for the flocks; where Joseph who followed them was sold to the Ishmaelites, after having been imprisoned in a "pit" (Ge 37:17 ff). Here in later days the eyes of Elisha's servant were opened to see the mountain "full of horses and chariots of fire," guarding his master from the encircling Syrians (2Ki 6:13 ff).

2. In Dothan there are two pits or cisterns and a spring, this would have been a provable location proving the Biblical account through actual archeological evidence.

B. Here comes the dreamer: They were still upset about the dreams

C. Reuben: stood in the gap, but not all the way in the gap.

1. He could have gone against his brothers completely, but hatched a plan to do it secretly
2. The brothers hatched their own plan, and Reuben grieved, but probably because he was afraid of the consequences.

D. Israel/Jacob

1. Verse 37:13 referred to as Israel
2. Verse 37:34 referred to as Jacob
3. He sent Joseph to check on his brothers, and grieved when the coat of many colors was returned soaked in blood

E. Ishmaelites/Midianites:

1. ish'-ma-el-its (yishme'e'lim): The supposed descendants of Ishmael, the son of Abraham and Hagar, whom Abraham sent away from him after the birth of Isaac (Ge 21:14-21). The sons of Ishmael are given in Ge 25:13,14; they were twelve in number and gave rise to as many tribes, but the term Ishmaelite has a broader signification, as appears from Ge 37:28. 36, where it is identified with Midianite.
2. One of the descendants of Ishmael was Midian, both terms serve the same people group just as Israel and Jew.

III. Point

A. Sin in the Camp

1. The awful wicked plan hatched in sin intended to end the struggle for the brothers
2. Sin will only cause more grief and challenge, though God can and will work and accomplish His plan, sin does not come without consequences.
3. Who do you identify with the most in the story?

- a) Reuben: who sort of wanted to do the right thing, but not all the way
 - b) Judah: who didn't want to do the right thing, but wanted to profit off the wrong thing
 - c) The others: who did nothing
- 4. All were caught up in sin, and it clouded their judgment
 - a) They are an stark example of sin in the camp, confronting our own sin
 - b) They were trying to solve a temporary problem, but caused a much larger problem.
 - c) Illustration: youth camp water problem
 - (1) Boys bathroom was covered in "water", because boys
 - (2) No-one wanted to own the mistake, so it was left to me to come up with a solution not involving the three towels brought to camp for 15 boys.
 - (3) There was a huge roll of toilet paper left in the cabin for some reason
 - (4) I put it on the floor and it soaked up all the water
 - (5) But by solving one problem, I created a much larger problem when we ran out of toilet paper in the boys dorm.
 - d) Sometimes our well meaning plans need to be left in the planning stage and not brought to the action stage.
- B. Grief is Real
 - 1. Jacob grieved over the loss. Reuben grieved over the problem, the others probably were just trying to make it through
 - 2. They didn't know God's plan, but they knew the pain of loss.
 - 3. They didn't trust the vision to be from God, or trust the vision to be good for them, but developed hatred in the plan.
 - 4. What they didn't see was God's sovereign plan was going to happen and the pain of grief would be temporary
 - a) The brothers never got over what they did to Joseph, even to the very end.
 - b) They also didn't fully trust in God's plan and promise and carried that as well
 - 5. Today, we grieve over loss, death, mistakes, struggles
 - a) This is natural, normal, and inescapable
 - b) But we do not see the illness of God's plan, and do not understand that which we see
 - c) [1Th 4:13-18 ESV] 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
 - 6. We grieve differently when we fully trust in God's plan!
- C. Christ Connection:
 - 1. The pit: Jesus went to the grave for us
 - 2. The Betrayal: He was betrayed by His own, though innocent of sin
 - 3. Sold for silver: 20 pieces for Joseph, 30 pieces of silver for Jesus...we will call it inflation
 - a) In Joseph's time, 20 pieces of silver represented a modest sum, roughly equivalent to a few months' wages for a laborer. This amount was the standard price for a slave.
 - b) In Jesus' time, 30 pieces of silver was also worth a few months wages for a laborer

4. Sold to pagans:
 - a) Joseph was sold to Ishmaelites, the plan of God was taken out of the hands of the 12 tribes
 - b) Jesus was given to the Romans for trial, God's plan taken out of the hands of the Jews.
5. Here I am:
 - a) Joseph knew his brothers hated him, yet was willing to go work with them
 - b) Jesus knew the pain that was coming as he bore the sins of all mankind, but willingly took the cross and overcame the grave.
 - c) [Luk 22:42 ESV] 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."
6. We should trust fully in the plan and provision of holy God
 - a) He is sovereign ruler over all things
 - (1) This includes our plans, our victories, and our failures
 - (2) He has given us great promises, we should believe Him!

IV. Close

- A. Don't get caught up in sin
- B. But when you do, turn quickly to the sovereign ruler of all things and find grace
- C. Jesus is alive today, by the power of God, and we can trust the plan He has set before us.