

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 16th January 2022 Hymns Psalm 103v1-7 Kilmarnock, 300, 303 Read: Genesis 37:1-4 Text Genesis 37:4

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph Hated By His Brethren

By the words just read it is clear that Joseph was not only loved by his father supremely, but also he received the blessings lost by Ruben the first born. This was demonstrated by a robe a coat of many colours.

This coat of colours symbolised honour, power, position, praise and pre-eminence, one chosen, full of wisdom, set apart to rule and be a channel of blessing.

However, we read in **verse 4** *and when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren they hated him....*”

The word Hated used in **verses 4,5 & 8** means **hostile**. The idea is **to oppose, opposition, an enemy at war. They opposed Joseph and he was now viewed and treated as an enemy by his own brethren.** From this time forward they would plan and work against Joseph.

His family turned against him. His own brethren hated him.

Once again we are brought to see in the life of Joseph another elevated view of Christ, who was also hated.

No man has ever been hated or is hated more than Christ. The Lord Jesus said of his enemies in **John 15:25** *“They hated me without a cause.”*

The phrase **without a cause** means **freely**, or **without a reason**. In other words they hate me because they hate me, they hate me freely, they oppose me without a just reason.

Paul stated in **Romans 1:30** man's natural affection towards God, **as being** *“...haters of God...”* men due to their own depraved heart, oppose or hate God freely.

Even with all the good things He provides generally for all mankind, yet the unjust hate Him.

Furthermore the Lord then said to His people by way of warning, awareness and comfort, **John 15:18** “*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.*” **verse 20** “*...if they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you...*”

Christ sates as He is hated freely so all in union or united to Him will also be hated opposed freely. **Psalm 69:4** “*They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head...*” **Psalm 109:3** “*They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.*”

Paul said to the church at Philippi, **Philippians 1:29** “*For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.*”

Therefore believer, just as Joseph was hated, opposed by his brethren, yet he always acted righteously toward them, and when they needed him the most, we find at the end of the scriptural account, Joseph forgave and comforted them.

What a picture of Christ, what a lesson for us to live and pray for those who despise us, because the same language that is used against Christ in hatred He turns it into grace and mercy in dying to forgive sinners.

Romans 3:23 “*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.*” The word **freely** is the same word used by Christ in **John 15:25**, which means *without a cause, or no reason*.

The point is this, when God justifies sinners by grace, by the blood of Christ, He does so without a reason, or cause in them, for there is no reason, or cause in any man why God should justify, rather there is every reason to leave sinners to face the condemnation they deserve.

It is only the grace and mercy of God, which turns Christ's haters and opposers into His friends and family.

He will never refuse any who call unto Him in faith for forgiveness, He will freely forgive. Even you backslider, return to Him just now, He said in **Hosea 14:4** ***"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him."***

Lets continue and consider **Joseph hated by his brethren.**

I FIRST, THE SOURCE OF THEIR HATRED

V11 ***"and his brethren envied him.*** in taking all the statements regarding the hatred of Joseph's brethren, it was against his person, who he was, everything about Joseph.

Also, from **verse 5** they hated his words, his proclamation.

verse 11 confirms the source of their hatred, ***his brethren envied him.*** The word **envy** means ***jealous, or to be jealous.*** They became jealous, envious of Joseph, for that reason they hated him and sold him.

In fact when Stephen in **Acts 7** gives the historical record of Israel, he sates in verse **Acts 7:9** ***"And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him"***

The word phrase ***moved with envy*** reads ***became jealous.***

Envy is negative feeling against another person. **According to the Apostle's Paul's list in Galatians 5:19-21 envy is a work of the flesh.** Paul's list of the works of the flesh can be divided in to four sections, it is in the third section that **jealousy** also called **Emulations** and then envy is found.

This list is identified with the desire for self honour, power, praise position and pre-eminence.

Jealousy and envy find their root in pride, and their fruit deals with the desire to have position, praise power and pre-eminence over another.

However, it is clear by the words, ***his brethren envied him, or jealous toward him***, they desired Joseph's placement, position, power praise and pre-eminence, but despised him for having it.

They viewed themselves as deserving or possessing such honour.

You see envy is the feeling of displeasure and annoyance of seeing or hearing the prosperity and achievements of others.

It is to covet, wanting what another person has, but also resenting that person for having it.

For instance, When believers speak of blessings and growing in grace. When there is church growth, or we hear of souls being saved in other places, instead of rejoicing we can become envy and degrade them, find fault.

It maybe someone envies another person's family, children, education, salary, position, church, blessings, prayers, gift, a talent, certain ability, job.

We cant see how others should have it, but only certainly see why I deserve it and should have it.

Envy is the reason many Christians don't get along they are envious of one another.

when David by the power of God slew Goliath, the people praised David more than Saul, **1 Samuel 18:7 Saul hath slain his**

thousands, and David his ten thousands. ⁸ And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? ⁹ And Saul eyed David from that day and forward. Saul thirsted for power, position, praise and pre-eminence, my kingdom, my victory, my praise.

Envy is the reason why sinners refuse the message of the gospel and Christ as Saviour, because when it comes to life and death, sinners want to be their own honour, power, position praise and preeminence.

Solomon wrote in **Prov 14:30** “**envy the rottenness of the bones.** Envy, saturates mind, saddens the mood, brings sickness to the body, it depresses.

Envy flows from pride, it is a heart issue. Solomon said in **Proverbs 23:7** “**As he thinketh in his heart, so is he**”

The Lord Jesus said in **Mark 7:20-23** “**and he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**”

Pride, hatred, envy, later we will see from verse 18 they conspired to against him, to slay him. until Ruben said in verse 21 “let us not kill him.

The source of their hatred was found in a heart full of pride, which appeared in the form of hatred, envy and jealousy. Their envy grew and grew until they desired to kill Joseph.

Envy was seen at its highest wickedness against the Lord Jesus Christ. **Matthew 27:1** “**...all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.**” **V12** “**he was accused of the chief priests and elders.**” They

delivered him to Pilate for sentencing however, Pilate in **verse 18** “***knew that for envy they had delivered Him.***”

However, when a Christian is envious of another, it exposes they not filled with the Holy Spirit, or walking by the Spirit, It will stain their testimony, it explains their backslidden state and walk according to the flesh,

living with unconfessed sin, displaying an complaining attitude, they bring an uneasy atmosphere that does not please or glorify God, because envy questions, accuses and attacks God’s character, that he is failing you, instead of thanking Him for good favours He has given you.

Such envy is discovered by the mirror of God’s word and must be put out, prayed out, forsaken and cleansed beneath the blood of Jesus Christ.

Believer there is victory in Christ.

II SECOND, THE SIGNS OF THEIR HATRED

The signs of their hatred where clear, notice **verse 4** “***they could not speak peaceably unto him.***”

the phrase ***not speak peaceably***, means ***they would not speak comforting words, they could not speak in peace, or shalom.*** Rather, their words were unkind, and of war. They planned against Joseph.

Notice when among themselves they mocked Joseph in **verse 19** “***...this dreamer cometh...***”

Joseph suffered by the words, and deeds of his brethren, he was a man of sorrows. These were the signs of their hatred,

Therefore, believer as we consider our Saviour, we must reflect upon the signs of hatred against him, for Christ truly was a man of sorrows, he was despised and rejected of men.

Through His earthly life and even at His death his own brethren could not speak peaceably unto Him, rather the unbelieving Jews said in **John 10:20** *He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?* They called Him in **Matthew 11:1** *a winebibber...*”

In preparation for His Cross, the soldiers mocked His Kingship in **Matthew 27:29-31** *they...mocked him, they spit upon him, smote him on the head. ³¹ And after that they had mocked him...and led him away to crucify him.*”

Its interesting to read at the end of Josephs life, his brethren bowed before him, they came in fear, and worry because they knew of their hatred of speech they could not speak peace toward Joseph they said in **Gen 50:15** *“joseph will hate us and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.”*

Notice the end of Joseph’s response **v21** *Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.*”

The words **spake kindly** in the Bible margin, read **to their hearts**. Joseph spoke words of comfort to their heart, he spoke in terms of peace.

Joseph spoke in love grace, mercy and peace, it was, spiritual comfort to the heart, as **Prov 15:23** *“a word spoken in due season, how good is it!”* they where glad when they heard Joseph’s words.

(Remember the time in **John 20:18-20** the disciples feared, then *“came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD.*.)

Believer, when we were lost sinners, we **could not speak peaceably unto him**, or about him, we used His name in vain,

but when we humbly came to Christ and confessed our sin, He spoke kindly to us, He spoke a word in season to our hearts, a word we needed to hear at that time, **Isa 43:1** "***Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.***" Praise His name He continually speaks words of comfort to our hearts.

Sinner in rebellion, Christ has comforting words for you **Isaiah 1:18** "***Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.***"

III THIRD, THE STRENGTH OF THEIR HATRED.

V5 "***they hated him yet the more...***" **the same words in verse 8** "***...And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.***

Their hatred intensified against Joseph's that is **verse 18** ***they conspired together against him, to slay him.***

You think of the strength of hatred against God's people it grows, intensifies until action is taken. ***Nursing envy will not make it better but its grow until a target is found to release all hatred, envy upon it.***

We know they didn't go through with their evil murder but still murder was in their heart and they betrayed and sold him into slavery.

Weather it's Abel, Isaac, Moses, David, Daniel, the three Hebrew Children, Apostles, yourself, when one confess Christ as Lord and Saviour, the hatred against the message of the gospel will strengthen.

(Christ in delivering His message of salvation, said of Himself in **John 8:36** to the unbelieving Jews, who where held in national,

cultural and religious bondage, ***the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Verse 37 but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. verse 40 “But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God” verse 45 “and because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.)***)

When the people demanded in **Matthew 27:22** that Christ “***be crucified***. Pilate asked in **Matthew 27:23** “***what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified***.”

The hatred against Christians will continue to get stronger, as we approach the return of Christ, they away with you and that message in our streets, schools, society, families.

In such times, believer, look unto Jesus, the captain of our salvation, but keep in mind, all that comes into our lives, types of affliction, suffering, or certain people, God in His sovereignty has permitted them for a certain time, He is fulfilling His plan of redemption to save His people, He is working to the counsel of His own will by using His people to further the gospel.

In **Gen 50**, thinking of all the envy, and hatred, of Joseph’s brothers toward him, yet at the same time all divinely controlled by God, Joseph said **verse 20** “***But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.***”