

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Evening

Date 12th December 2021 Hymns 58, 281 131 t of 80 Read: Genesis 37:1-2 Text Genesis 37:2

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph and his Brethren (2)

In continuing our study in the life of Joseph, we have been considering Joseph and his brethren, last week we thought upon **Joseph's Placement and Prerequisite.**

Jacob had 12 sons, Ruben was the first born of all Jacob's sons and had first right to the blessings of the father.

As the first born son he enjoyed the right and privileges the rest of the sons did not. As the first born Ruben was in a responsible and leadership position as in every family.

However, through sin, Ruben lost the blessings, privileges and rights as the first of his Father.

We would expect the inheritance or family blessing to pass unto the second Son which was but not so, scripture records Joseph the 11th son received the right of blessing from the Father.

Through the life of Joseph we will discover that he was the obedient and elevated son, to be the provider for his brethren.

There we see a wonderful picture of all the blessings lost by the disobedience of the first man Adam, have been restored by perfect obedience of Christ for all His people.

As the one loved and chosen by the father, Christ is the provider and the one who sustains all His redeemed people.

also Joseph was feeding the flock, it was an obligation to all his sons, but Joseph cared for the sheep, but his brethren while carry out their duties received an evil report from Joseph.

Once again we see beyond an earthly Joseph, a feeder of the flock, and view Christ as the good, great and chief shepherd of His people, who cares loves and restores them. He feeds by the word of God and calls them by name as He leads them into pasture green, abundant with good things.

Due to their union with Him, they hear His voice and follow Him.

Today we continue, in the field where Joseph is feeding the flock with his brethren.

III THIRD, JOSEPH'S PURITY

Verse 2 states that ***Joseph...was feeding the flock with his brethren***.... Now **verse 2** particularly with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah which were ***Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher***.

But it is clear from the words ***evil report*** at end of **verse 2**, that Joseph's brethren are behaving in such a way that would not please their father Jacob.

Now we do not know what took place, weather by speech or action. It may something surrounding their duties to feed the flock. Others have their own thoughts.

When scripture is silent on specific matters it's best not to guess, otherwise we fall into error.

But whatever took place it was ***evil or wicked***. These brothers, lived without personal standards, moral convictions, and spiritual principles.

Notice **verse 2** confirms it was ***their evil report***, or the evil report that matched their character, it was suited them.

whatever was reported would not have been a surprise to Jacob.

Remember by this stage, Joseph's brethren have been involved in scandalous sin. In **Gen 34** when Jacob daughter was defiled corrupted by the men of Shechem, then two of Jacobs son

Simeon and Levi took matters into their own hands with deceptive plan for revenge which resulted in the death of the males in Shechem, but in response to his sons deception, Jacob said in **Gen 34:30** ***“ye have troubled me to make me stink among the inhabitants of the land...”***

In the next verses and chapters we will see their envy and hatred for Joseph, lies to their father and much more. They were wild, and worldly, young men.

However, Joseph was not involved in anything which made up the evil report.

The evil report charged against his brethren could not be charged against Joseph. His character was spotless.

He was blameless and remained separate from their wickedness.

Joseph was not conformed or shaped by the wicked and evil ways of his brothers. He would not bow to their actions in life or bend to their attitude of life. He would not follow or partake on their sinful activities which made up the evil report.

You will find that as you look at the life of Joseph there is no condemnation of his life, only commendation. There is not one defiling sin that is recorded; There is not one stain that is remembered; There is not one dark spot that is reported.

Joseph loved God with all his heart. He was obedient to the Lord in every way.

He lived a pure, clean, holy life. He was completely sold out to Christ.

He was a spiritually-minded young man.

Believer you will find that in life generally, or in the business world, or years at school, there will be much that could side track you,

We read in **Romans 12:2** ***“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”*** The word **conformed** has the idea of being squeezed in a mould to take shape. The admonition is not to let this world squeeze you into its mould and shape you after its image.

In other words don't live the Christian life, by the standards and sights of the world. Don't take the course of this world to be your guide in life, for you will make Ship wreck.

There is a constant pull to conform. There is a continual push to conform. There is a ceaseless pressure to conform from all sides and every walk in life.

The world wants you to conform to its standards as does the flesh. It wants to squeeze you into its mould!

What a great example Joseph provides of one who would not be led astray by the actions and attitudes of others. Joseph never conformed he remained pure.

Now while Joseph was not perfect in and of himself, yet he did seek to live a pure life yet believer lift your mind toward heaven and consider one who is infinitely perfect.

Christ who is a greater than Joseph, one who is perfectly pure, as stated by **Hebrews 7:26** ***“who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”***

Christ was present in a world of ungodly sinners, however He remained pure.

Here we learn the impeccability of Christ, which means not able to sin, absolute purity. It is not that Christ could have sinned but didn't, Rather it was impossible for Him to sin. Jesus Christ is **Jer 23:6** "...called the **LORD our righteousness.**" **1 Peter 1:19** "**a lamb without spot.**" **2 Cor 5:21** "**who knew no sin.**" **1 Peter 2:22** "**Who did no sin neither was guile found in his mouth**" **1 John 3:5** "...and in Him is no sin."

The man thief who died upon the cross, said of Christ in **Luke 23:41** "**this man hath done nothing amiss.**" Meaning **He has done nothing out of place.**

Christ's character is unblemished, His conduct untainted and His consistency is unimpeachable.

Psalm 145:17 "**The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works.**"

Why is that vital for us believer or you sinner, The importance of Christ's sinlessness is that had He been guilty of any sin at all, He could not have been the Saviour of sinners.

Therefore, Christ lived a pure and perfect life for sinners He came to save, so He could die for sinners He came to save, in order to save sinners He came to save, providing for them by His divine, everything they need to live godly lives in an ungodly world.

Through the power of the gospel, believers are enabled to walk with God. Seek as, Daniel **who purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...**

Or listen to Paul's wise counsel to Timothy in **1 Timothy 5:22** "***neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*** Joseph's purity.

IV FOURTH, JOSEPH'S PRESENCE.

Verse 2 states that ***Joseph...was feeding the flock with his brethren... And Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.***"

It is amazing to learn that this evil report was drafted up while Joseph was present with his brethren, and they didn't care they didn't seem to take notice.

They did not care about the honour of their Father's name in society. They thought because they had left their Father at home their sin would go unnoticed.

It showed their lack of concern and respect to behave in such a way that scripture calls ***their evil report.***

Joseph was a godly young man, he lived his life in awareness he was in the presence of God.

When an ungodly woman pressured Joseph disobey God by the sin of adultery, giving him an evil report, his response to her is recorded in **Gen 39:9** "***how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?***"

Joseph lived in the awareness that God was present. It moulded and shaped his behaviour, and actions when others weren't around.

He lived knowing His God is everywhere present in public and private.

What a lesson to grasp, that as we go about our day to day work, school, collage, all we do and say is in the presence of our heavenly Joseph.

David in **Psalm 139**, understood this truth that he lived in the presence of God, everything David thought, said, and did, was all in the presence of God for He is Omnipresent, everywhere present and known by God for he is Omniscience, He knows all things.

Psalm 139:1-4, *O lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. ² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. **V7** Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*

Solomon taught his son in **Prov 15:3** “*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*” May we live and carry out our responsibilities with that awareness as Joseph, the Lord is ever present, even when seen or unseen by man.

God is always watching, nothing is hid from Him.

V FIFTH, JOSEPH'S PRESENTATION.

Verse 2 *And Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.*”

The word **brought** means to **present, or presented.** Joseph kept a record of every detail and presented to his father.

Again some would accuse Joseph of being a tale bearer, a tout, trying to get his brothers into trouble, but I don't believe so.

Joseph was concerned for His brethren. He was grieved at their sin, he loved his father and desired to see His name honoured. He took the right course of action.

Therefore, believer what instruction there is here, when you see loved ones going astray, or believers who once attended the house of God, even unsaved ones who are dishonouring the name of Christ, and you summarise their behaviour as an evil report, it troubles you, **take prayerful action, be that first**

responder and present them before the Lord, bring them to the throne of grace, tell Him their evil report for He has all power to intervene, to correct, cleanse, to pardon sin. **James 5:16**
“pray one for another

The Lord Jesus upon the cross, brought before God, the evil report of His accusers, He prayed in **Luke 23:33** ***“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...”*** At Calvary, He did not retaliate or smite them, or call down wrath upon them, rather He bore that wrath, and prayed for their forgiveness.

While nailed to the Cross as the suffering servant, He was still seeking sinners.

In all Christ does He has His people in View.

Therefore, among the crowd that day who cried crucified Him! Where sinners without hope, and without Christ as their Saviour.

However, He prays for them; He pleads for their pardon knowing there are those among them whom He has chosen to save.

If Christ did not have a particular people in view then His death and prayer was a failure.

The reason being – Christ only intercedes, prays for those whom His blood was shed. That is not extremism, or hyper Calvinism,

That simply states the blood of Christ was not shed in vain and His prayer was not in vain, and guarantees all for whom His blood was shed will never be in hell. **Isa 53:11-12** ***“He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. V12 “...He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”***

Luke 23:47 The Roman centurion that day at the cross was saved. The thief on the cross was saved, and much more.

You believer are saved today as a result of Christ's death and prayer that all the Father giveth Him shall come to Him.