

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 6<sup>th</sup> February Hymns Ps 89v1-8, T Stracathro, 324, 5, 669. Read: Genesis 37:12- Text Genesis 37:12-15

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Obedience To The Father's Will (1)

Once Joseph had proclaimed to his brethren the message given by God in the dream, we read at the end of **verse 8** "**they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words**", then in **verse 11** "**his brethren envied him...**"

The message in the dreams prophesied Joseph's exaltation and rule over his brethren, however they would not have Joseph rule over them. They rejected Joseph in who he was and the message he proclaimed.

But their rejection and refusal did not silence or stop Joseph from sharing the message, he endured, despising the shame,

Therefore, believer, we need to share with men and woman the the gospel of Christ as revealed in the word, for the salvation of sinners.

Joseph's brethren, then left for Shechem, off course this was nothing new, as famers, cattlemen they would often go to different fields, but the fact they went to Shechem, Jacob is concerned for their spiritual well being, and he wills, to send Joseph to Shechem in search for his brethren and Joseph obeys.

We can see how quickly Joseph's life points to Christ the obedient Son.

They rejected His message of the cross, and future exaltation, they rejected His sonship, they refused to acknowledge Jesus was the Son of God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father, they rejected that He was Messiah, the anointed one, the eternal word, God manifest in the flesh.

Yet God decreed or willed to send His Son to save sinners, Paul speaks of Christ in **Heb 12:3** “**consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself...**” the word **contradiction**, literally means **gainsaying** which is **hostility, opposition, rebellion**.

This is the hatred against Christ, but Paul continued that Christ in **Hebrew 12:3** **who for the joy that set before Him, endured the cross, despising the shame.**

The joy which was set before Jesus was principally **the joy of saving you and me!** I know it was the joy of fulfilling His Father’s will—sitting down on His Father’s throne—of being made perfect through suffering—but still, the great motive of the Saviour’s suffering—the joy of saving us!

In thinking about Joseph as sent by the Father’s will, may we look steadfastly to Christ and see Him as sent by the Father’s will.

**I FIRST, JOSEPH WAS SENT BY THE FATHER’S WILL.**

**Joseph was sent with a purpose.**

Joseph’s father said in **verse 13** “**Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them.** then end of **verse 14** “**...so he sent him out....**

Joseph was sent to fulfil His Father’s will. The words **send** and **sent**, mean **to send forth, from or out of**. The idea is send a with purpose. **Verse 14** “**So he sent him out of.**

For instance the same word is used in **Genesis 8:8** when Noah was in the ark, he “**sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground...**” if the dove didn’t return then he knew the water had gone down.

Israel sent Joseph with a purpose, he commissioned Joseph to carry out his desire, to go unto his brethren and **see whether it be well with thy brethren.**

Such words lift our minds heavenward to consider Jesus the Son of God, sent forth with a purpose, to carry out the Father's will and pleasure.

Paul said in **Galatians 4:4-5**, "***But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son... To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons,***"

The words "**sent forth**" have the same meaning, with a definite end in view. Their clear meaning is "**to send out from.**" Or **sent forth with a purpose.**

When the fullness of time was come, at the exact time in history, God sent forth His Son, for the sake of fallen men. Christ stepped into the affairs of this world as the Word made flesh, the Godman, for the purpose to save sinners.

God didn't send an angel or some exalted creature He sent forth His Son, to perform His will.

**1 John 4:10** ***Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

the word **propitiation** means ***the turning away of God wrath against the sinners sin by means of an sacrifice that puts away sin.*** Christ was sent forth to turn away God wrath against us, to be the covering for our sin.

Christ was sent with a purpose to deliver sinners.

Therefore, believer Christ said of His people in **John 20:21** "***...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.***"

The redeemed of the Lord, are sent forth with a purpose that is to spread the gospel of God's free grace, in London, throughout the land, and further a field. Paul said, to believers, in **2 Cor 5:20** "***Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God***

***did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.***"

An ambassador acts and speaks in the place of his sovereign. It is his duty to proclaim faithfully and precisely the message entrusted to him.

The gospel message has been entrusted by God to the redeemed to spread its message without compromise, we are to finish the work given to us.

Each day believer God sends you forth as the light of the world for the purpose to shine for Him, do His will, live for Him, humbly and honestly in crooked and perverse generation.

Christ was sent forth, with a purpose, He lived to do the Father's will.

***Joseph was sent for a people.***

***Joseph's father said in verse 13 "Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. V14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again." Verse 16 he said, I seek my brethren:***

Israel sent Joseph for his own brethren. In other words, Joseph came for a particular people. He came with a view to seek out a certain company of people.

There was a definite people, clearly singled out by Israel that Joseph was sent to seek out. It was his own brethren his own people.

Israel sent Joseph to his brethren because they needed to be brought back, their hardness, and rejection concerning the message of Joseph's dream must be dealt with.

It was clear to Israel that his sons, Joseph's brethren were not at peace, it was not well with them, ***Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren.*** the brethren were in great need, their

hearts are full of pride, they hate Joseph. It was not well with them.

The word **well**, means **sound, complete or peace**. Therefore, when Israel sends his son Joseph to seek the well being of his brethren, is to see **whether it be well sound, complete or peace with thy brethren.**”

***In fact we have looked at root of this word well, already, it is the same word peaceably that is found in 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.**  
**They could not speak well unto Joseph.**

Rather, their words were unkind, and of war, They viewed and treated Joseph as an enemy. They mocked him, and spoke against him, later in the chapter they plot against him.

The point is it is not well with the brethren. They were at war with Joseph, The word includes the life and character of the person, their well being.

That is why Jacob was also concerned about the flock, where they taken care off, feed and watered.

See again men and woman a view of Christ the Son of God, as sent by the Father with a purpose for the sinners well being, to rescue a people, out of fallen humanity.

Such Sinners have no peace with God, they are at war continually with Christ. They are the enemies of the cross, They rage and riot against the Lord. It is not well with their soul, for they hate Christ and cannot speak well of Him or His people. There is a rejection of His Lordship and word.

Yet in wrath He remembers mercy. He comes with comforting words, **John 10:9 “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.**

He came for the sinner's spiritual wellbeing. Within the councils of the trinity in eternity past there was a great company of sinners given to Christ by the Father, and lead by the Spirit. A particular company whom He had chosen from among men to be His choice and peculiar treasure.

Christ said Himself in **John 6:37** "**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; He prayed in John 17:2 As thou hast given Him power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given Him.**"

Christ never came to make salvation a possibility, Christ never came hoping to save whoever He could, rather Christ came with a definite view and actual aim that is to save a particular people, His people from their sin.

In **Acts 13:44** when there was a great gathering in Antioch to hear the Gospel preached, **v48** confirms "**as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.**"

What kept Paul going forward in gospel ministry in Corinth, the Lord guaranteed Him in **Acts 18:10**, "**I have much people in this city.**"

This truth is our encouragement to continually evangelise the lost in London and nations.

The very fact Christ will save a people from sin, does not kill or hinder evangelism rather it guarantees the salvation of a people from fallen humanity. It secures that our labour in the Lord is not in vain.

For the one trusting in Christ, it is well with their soul, but sinner it is not well between you and God, you are not right with God, you must come to Christ and ask for forgiveness, He has made full atonement for sin.

**Joseph was sent to a place.**



**Verse 12** “*his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.*”

Why Shechem because that is where his brethren were located. Shechem was about 60 miles from Hebron.

It was named after Hamor's son who was called Shechem. Hamor was a Hivite or as the name means villagers.

Where did the Hivites come from, notice the family record in **Gen 10:6, 15-20** they were the **descendants of Canaan, son of Ham, the son of Noah.**

Remember when Noah fell into sin by drunkenness, his son, Ham committed sin by looking at his Father's nakedness, as a consequence Canaan's family line was chastised.

From Ham, then his son Canaan came families that became the enemies of God, such as the Philistines and Hivites, and Shechem.

They were idolaters.

Shechem was a dangerous, defiling and a wicked place. It was known for its strife. Sin abounded in Shechem, the carnal passions and pleasures of sin flourished. Men lived as they pleased.

It was in Shechem that Jacob, years before, in **Gen 33:19** bought a parcel of land.

It was in Shechem, in **Genesis 34** where Jacob's daughter was defiled by Hamor's son Shechem, and his sons committed sin. The events at Shechem marred Jacob's sons causing Jacob to stink among the people in the land.

**The pleasures, practises, pursuit, people and place of Shechem caused much trouble to Jacob and his sons.**

Now Jacob's sons have gone back to Shechem, with all their hatred and hostility, therefore Israel send's Joseph, to Shechem to ***see whether it be well with thy brethren***.

It is interesting to note that the name **Hebron** means **fellowship**, whereas **Shechem** means **shoulder, or saddle**, the name matches its location of mountainous range, hills just like the shape of saddle.

But also the picture of a shoulder to carry, to bear the weight, the idea is that of a burden.

Therefore, Shechem was associated with wickedness, and the burden of sin.

Joseph would leave the **place of fellowship with the Father** in search of his brethren who dwelled at the ***place associated with wickedness***.

Let me also put in, that Joshua 20. Shechem, and Hebron where 2 of the 6 cities of refuge, the one whose life was danger, fled to a city of refuge, and there found safety from danger.

What a view of Christ left the fellowship with the Father in heaven, to come a earth a place associated with wickedness, as our city of Refuge.

The Lord Jesus said in **John 3:16** ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*** He was born in Bethlehem and died at Jerusalem. He came into a world where men followed the evil imagination of their heart. **John 1:19** ***“men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

A world filled with the root of sin which is ungodliness and the fruit of sin which is unrighteousness. Christ said of unbelievers in **John 5:40** ***ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.”***



This world is full of sinners deserving only full payment of sin in condemnation for rejecting Christ words, yet Christ who is joy unspeakable and full of glory said in **John 3:17** ***“for God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.***

Believer, Aren't you glad that Father sent His Son for you, because the love we have for our sin, following the course of this present evil world we never would have sent for him.

Rejoice for the day when He came to your own Shechem and visited you in your uncleanness and He delivered you or pluck you out of it for is own name sake, and found in Him a refuge.

Next time we will consider

**II SECOND, JOSEPH WAS SURRENDERED TO THE FATHER'S WILL.**

**III THIRD, JOSEPH WAS SACRIFICIAL IN THE FATHER'S WILL.**

**IV FOURTH JOSEPH WAS A SO-JOURNER IN THE FATHER'S WILL.**