

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date Hymns Psalm 103v1-7, Kilmarnock 96- t472) 431, 488, Read: Genesis 37:12- Text Genesis 37:12-15

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Obedience To The Father's Will (2)

When Israel's sons, Joseph's brothers, turned from their fathers presence they headed for Shechem.

traveling to different and distance fields was natural for herdsmen yet Shechem was a devilling place, full of carnal corruption.

Shechem which was about 60 miles away, therefore with every step they are getting further and further away from their Father and Joseph. From Hebron the place of fellowship.

Israel concerned for his sons, sent Joseph to seek them and see if it be well with them.

In fact when Joseph was in Egypt, Pharoah gave him a title, which is recorded in **Genesis 41:45** "**Pharoah called Joseph's name Zaph-nath-pa-a-ne-ah.**" which means **Saviour of the world.**

What a picture there is in the gospel message, we are reminded in **Isaiah 53:6** **all we like sheep have gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way.**"

Men in their sin, and opposition to the Saviour and His saving message have wilfully turned away from Him and go deeper and deeper into sin,

however, Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of the world, that is sinners from every nation.

Its to Christ alone, all the ends of the earth must look unto Him and be saved.

Joseph was sent by the Father's will, for a purpose, for a people and to a place.

Notice:

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

Look at the end of verse 13 *And he said to him, Here am I.*

Joseph did not question his father's will. He didn't respond by refusing to go due to ill treatment he received by the hand of his brethren. He didn't make excuses.

They hated him and despised his words.

Had Israel not sent Joseph, and left them in Schemes He would have been right to do so, due to their hatred and rejection

But in love He sends Joseph and in love Joseph fully commits to fulfil his father's will. *Here am I.*

In obedience, Joseph surrendered Himself to the Father's will *Here am I.*

In other words I am willing and ready to do your will. Above my own ambitions, your will is my desire.

We think of believers in scripture who surrendered to the will of the Father for their lives, and to responded with same words, of surrender here am I.

In **Gen 22** when God called and challenged Abraham's faith to offer up his only son Isaac on the altar of sacrifice Abraham responded in **verse 1** "***Behold, here I am.***"

But remember the Lord stepped in, and Isaac was spared because a ram was offered in his place. Once again there is a double picture of the cross work of Christ.

Abraham pointing to God the Father willingly offering up His only Son Isaac pointing to Christ,

but also the symbolism changes, Isaac then represents the sinner facing death, however a substitute is provided, a ram its

sacrificed in the place of Isaac, the death and suffered Due Isaac now feel upon the ram in his place.

see Christ taking the place of sinner in total obedience to do the fathers will.

to suffer and die the just for the unjust, to have all the iniquity of all His people laid upon Him.

Think also of Jacob himself, and this is interesting for it parallels Joseph's situation. In **Gen 31:11** "***and the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.***

Jacob also received a message by way of a dream, the message is recorded in **verse 13** "***now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.***"

Once again in **Gen 46:2** "***And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.***

Think of Moses in **Exodus 3:4** "***God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.***

Moses was called of God to return to Egypt and deliver his people who were in hard bondage.

They came out of Egypt by faith in the blood of the lamb. Here am I will go. once again there is wonderful picture in the gospel.

In our Spiritual Egypt we lived in bondage, and served a hard task master the devil, it was bitter and cruel bondage.

Due to the power of sin we had no ability against the foe, we were unable to deliver ourselves, until our cry reached God and He sent a deliverer the Lord Jesus Christ and He by His own blood lead us out of Spiritual bondage into new life.

Remember young Samuel, when he heard the call of God both in salvation and to serve as a prophet, **1 Samuel 3:4** “***That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.***

Unsaved one will you obey the gospel call and come unto Jesus and be saved.

Dear Christian will surrender to the Lord's leading and do what He wants you to do, be where He calls you to be.

Then Isaiah, who had that high and holy view of Christ and then Isaiah received the call for service, sent with a purpose to do the fathers will in spreading the gospel, notice, **Isaiah 6:8** ***I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.***

These mentioned where all called by the Father for a purpose and they surrendered to the Father's will.

What about believer, are you surrendered to the father's will. Are you devoted to God's will for your life, are you surrendered to His word and ways, where He will lead are you ready to go.

In all these examples sacrifices had to be made in surrendering to the Lord.

the Lord may challenges you with the hard areas in your life, the areas where its off limits, the area you say don't go there, will you surrender all to Him.

Is he leading into service, burdened you about giving out church invites, getting involved with youth & children work, go through with God, He will honour them who honour Him.

The greatest example of a life surrendered to God is Jesus Christ who perfectly obeyed the Father's will.

While in eternity He was with the Father in fellowship, He and His Father are one, equal in nature, However Christ surrendered to

the will of God, concerning the role of redemption, humbling Himself and offering Himself to God, by dying of the Cross.

Here is the point, Deity cannot die, God cannot suffer, God cannot die, He is eternal, therefore it was necessary that the second person of the Godhead, the eternal Son of God, submitted Himself leaving the glory of heaven and took our human nature unto Himself without sin, bone of bone and flesh of our flesh in order to suffer and pay the debt of sin by dying on the tree.

Christ prayed in **Luke 22:42** He prayed, “**nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.**” Paul said of Christ in **Hebrews 5:8** “**Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.**”

The surrender of Christ to His Father is infinitely supreme in comparison to Josephs surrender to his father, but the point is He surrendered.

Oh sinner will you surrender to Jesus all your idols, and forsake your own ways to heaven, turn from your Shechem, and surrender your heart and mouth to Him, **Romans 10:10** “**for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**”

Joseph was sent, surrendered:

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

Verse 14 “**So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.** What precious statements **sent him, he came.**”

Joseph obeyed his Father’s will sacrificially. It was one thing for Joseph to say here am I, but it is equally important for Joseph to go.

He was obedient by words & action.

you see Joseph I saying here am I, didn't mean Im on standby just let me know. It was not an empty response. His word did not return unto him void.

Rather He was sent by the father from the **vale or valley of Hebron** and he came Shechem.

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 and valleys, just like a saddle.

But also the picture of a shoulder to carry, to bear the weight of something.

The idea is that of a burden. Therefore, Shechem was associated with wickedness, and the burden of sin, its bondage seen by the pleasures and pursuit of sin.

Joseph would leave the place of fellowship, communion, to search for his brethren in the place of sin and corruption.

He fulfilled his oath, He came at the Father's command, Joseph was a doer of the word.

Therefore, believer, Christian living is knowing and doing the will of God. James said to believers in **James 1:22** "**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,**

We have an elevated view have of Christ, who left the place of Fellowship with the Father and came to the place of associated with sin. He said Himself in **John 6:51** "**I am the living bread which came down from heaven:**

He came to earth as the sin bearer, to shoulder or carry wounded sinners to safety back to Hebron, back to the place of fellowship.

Paul tells us in **2 Corinthians 5:19** it is “**God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ.**

Due the fall of men into sin, we lost fellowship with God, we were cut off and excluded from His presence, because God is light and in Him is no darkness.

Believer when you dwelt in your Shechem, in the pleasures of sin, pursuing the lusts of the flesh, at certain times of the year you got a bit religious thinking that was enough, however there was no fellowship with God, because Paul said in **2 Corinthians 6:14** ***what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*** There point is there is none, there are opposite.

That why is was needful for Christ to leave fellowship and dwell among corruption,

He came to out Shechem, to take the burden of sin as Peter said in **1 Peter 2:24** “***Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree***, having taken our sins and sorrow to shoulder them, for all who believe in Him, John writes in His Epistle in **1 John 1:3** “***truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*** Believer we have access to the throne of grace through Christ.

The Father restores hostile sinners into fellowship and communion with Himself only through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

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

Verse 15 “***And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?***

I want to focus upon the thought of Joseph wandering in the field, in the world, we are not to think that he was lost or aimlessly wandering, rather he has arrived and is passing through the field in search of his brethren.

Joseph is at a distance from his father, Shechem is not his home, but while he is there for a certain time **he was wandering in the field.**

It brings us to see Christ who came into this field, this world, this Shechem, at the Father's will, He was a so-journey, a lonely stranger.

When He came into this field this world, at His Birth, we read in **Luke 2:7 she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.**

To his disciples in **Luke 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**” He left the dwelling place with His Father and would dwell with His Father again once His work was completed.

We read in **Hebrews 10:12 “but this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;** Christ is in heaven enthroned in glory.

Joseph would dwell in his Father's presence once again when God has accomplished His purposes with him.

Therefore, believer this field, this world the Lord's people are as **Psalm 39:12** puts it **strangers, pilgrims and sojourners**, the idea of the word **stranger** signifies **a foreigner**, they are a long way from home.

The word **sojourner**, speaks **of one passing through, on a journey to reach a more permanent destination**. Therefore, we are just passing through, as this world is not our final home.

This is clearly the view in **Heb 11: 13** "**strangers & pilgrims on the earth**." There is much walking and labour on this journey, times of sickness and weariness, but we look for that dwelling place of eternal rest. No more sickness or sorrow, no more labour. this has always been the desire believers.

Heb 11: 16 – "**They desire a better country, that is an heavenly.**" **Heb 11: 10** – "**He looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.**" **2 Pet 1: 11** – "**the everlasting kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" **Luke 23: 43** "**Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.**"

But above we shall be forever with Christ, and dwell with Him, as He said in **John 14:3** "**that where I am, there ye may be also.**"

What a reminder **the final destination is already prepared for Christ's people.** **Christ came to Calvary to suffer the punishment of sin and die to pay the penalty of sin**, to purchase and prepare an eternal home for wonders sojourners, so that sinners would be able to have an entrance to Father house for eternal rest. **All Christ did on the Cross was in order that sinners would be saved and enter into their eternal abiding or dwelling.**

Will you be there?