

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 20th March 2022 Hymns Psalm 5v1-8 Stracathro, 371, 95. Read: Genesis 37:23-28.
Text Genesis 37:23-28

Series: Joseph (14) Title: Judah's Deal to sell Joseph

When Joseph was approaching his brethren, they began to plot against him to kill him.

Reuben having his own agenda, realising this plan will not benefit him, he manipulates the situation.

Instead of slaying Joseph, shedding his blood, Reuben thought better only to persecute Joseph, make him suffer a while, throw him into the pit, watch him, but just don't kill him.

Reuben is still wounded, from losing all the blessings of the first born. He sinned against his dad, and so he wants to regain favour by bringing Joseph home.

After a short separation, Reuben returns, to find Joseph has been sold, and he said in **Verse 30** "**the child is not and I whither shall I go**?" meaning what I am going to do, I cant even go back home now, this adds more to my record.

Reuben sorrowed but it was not over his sin and wrong doing rather, his actions were self centred. He acted for self not Joseph.

To use his father words, Reuben was unstable as water, he would not excel, not prosper. He was double minded and inconsistent towards Joseph.

In the gospel record, Think in trials of Christ, all who acted against Him, did so for themselves, to suit their own agendas.

They were unstable as water, double minded, weak, inconsistent, and untrustworthy.

Passing Christ from person to person, back and forth, wavering. They knew Christ had done nothing wrong, even Pilate said in **Luke 23:14** “**Ye have brought this man unto me as one that perverteth the people, and behold I having examined Him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him, no, not yet Herod....**”

When given the opportunity to rethink, retract and release this holy and righteous man, they refused out of envy, hatred, and requested the release of Barabbas a guilty criminal. They persecuted and then crucified Christ.

Yet God was in control of every detail, He permitted all to take place for fulfil His redemptive purpose, to save sinners.

God was in control in in Genesis 37, He permitted all that took place, the people involved, to bring spiritual good out of their envy and evil.

During Ruben’s time away, Judah in **verses 26-27** comes up with his own plan to benefit them all, not to slay Joseph but to sell Joseph.

What we have before is Judah’s deal regarding Joseph.

I FIRST, THE PROPOSER OF THE DEAL TO SELL JOSEPH.

verse 26 *And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?* **verse 27** *“Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites...”*

It was Judah, of all the brothers to make the next move.

Why is that to be emphasised or startling because the name **Judah** means **praise or he that shall be praised, praise the Lord,** when Leah gave birth, she said in **Gen 29:35** “**Now will**

I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing.

In **Genesis 49** Jacob has word for each of his sons before his death. We have considered Jacob's word to Reuben as unstable as water.

When He comes to Judah in **verse 8** "***Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise...***"

Jacobs words are a a messianic prophecy that Christ shall be born through the tribe of Judah, notice **verse 10** ***The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.***"

The name **Shiloh** is a prophetic title for Christ. It relates to His first coming but also includes Christ's second coming, and everlasting Kingdom.

It is a name that speaks of authority, the right to rule. Christ is called in **Revelation 5:5** ***the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David...***"

Therefore, Judah, the one whose speaks of praise is now putting to the brethren to sell Joseph.

Names or the meaning of names are important in the Bible, they often teach of a person Character.

The point is one who carries the name of praise is not living up the name, it is acting out of character.

Judah having spent time in his Joseph's presence for years, now betrays Joseph, he makes a deal to sell him.

It is interesting to think that the name Judah in the OT Hebrew is the same name as Judas in the NT Greek, ***praise or he who shall be praised.***

Once again in the life and sufferings of Joseph we are lead to our heavenly Joseph, Jesus Christ.

It is interesting that Judah spent time in Joseph's presence, and Judas spent time in Christ's presence. Judah arranged to sell Joseph, and sold Joseph just as Judas arranged to sell Christ and sold Christ.

Here is blessing while both, Judah and Judas failed to live up to their name, yet Joseph did not fail.

The name **Joseph** means **to add or Jehovah shall add**. There is a double blessing, God not only gave Benjamin to Rachel, and added blessings through Joseph, but Ultimately the name reveals Jesus Christ given to be blessed, Christ never failed.

His name means **Saviour and Anointed**, therefore Christ is **one appointed and anointed to save**, he even fulfils Judah's name. **He who shall be praised**.

Christ alone is worthy of all praise and shall be praised at His return and throughout eternity.

Therefore believer there is a lesson for us a people of God we have a new name that must be lived out. The Lord says of His people, **2 Chronicles 7:14 my people which are called by my name**.

the words in the Hebrew read **my people "upon whom my name is called"**. The Lord's people are a people who bear, or carry His name. we are the children of God, the bride of Christ, the light and salt, a holy nation.

may God give grace to each as we carry the name, saints of God, the church, redeemed by precious blood.

The proposer

II SECOND, THE PURPOSE OF THE DEAL TO SELL JOSEPH. __. **Verse 26** **And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?**

The purpose of the deal is to make profit from Joseph. The word **profit** means **to gain**. Judah suggests it is better to sell Joseph and make money from him than to slay him.

Judah is motivated by gain. Judah refuses the words of Joseph, He rejects His very presence and person.

He sets out to betray his brother, he covets wealth at any cost, including the one who is God's Messenger about future events. He believes he can live his life without Joseph. He never wants to see or hear of Joseph again.

The purpose of Judah's deal was to sell Joseph for gain, likewise, in the NT, a name named, Judas sold the Saviour for gain. Judas betrayed Christ to get more money, he was an unfaithful treasurer among the brethren.

Judas loved, lived and lusted for money.

This was also evident in **John 12** when Mary served the Saviour she took "***a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.***

Mary gave her best and all to the Saviour in service, yet when Judas seen this act of devotion and love for Christ, instead of praising, encouraging Mary, notice **verse 4** ***Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.***"

Mr praise turned into to Mr nasty, Mr discourager, **he was a thief, he termed Mary's sacrificial giving to the Lord as a waste.**

(but how did the Saviour view Mary's action of surrender, devotion and giving, He said **v5** ***then said Jesus, Let her***

alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. He defended her, and blessed her, because her service was in His name. Her giving honoured the Lord.)

Judas covetous spirit is seen in making a deal to sell Christ. Judas said in **Matthew 26:15** **what will you give me and I will betray him.**” ...” what value will you put on Christ’s life. How much is he worth? How much are you willing to give me?

The point is they placed little or no value on Christ who in fact is of infinite value. As Peter taught Christ is precious to believers.

Judas was driven by the sin of greed and covetousness, which is the centre of all sins. Paul said in **Romans 7:7** “..., **I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet..**”

the Coveting in view is that which dishonours God, against His command.

Now I understand the word **covetousness or covet** is not found in this passage, but in close examination we can clearly see the principle of sinful covetousness displayed.

We must be clear, to covet something is not sinful.

Coveting or covetousness only becomes sinful when you covet what God has forbidden, or when willing to trade or sell Biblical principles for worldly prosperity.

The word **covet** it used both in a good and bad sense in scripture.

What does it mean **to covet**, the word that used throughout scripture means **desire, to or to take pleasure**, the idea is **to fix the mind or heart upon.**

Now let me say, There is nothing wrong with having money, or plenty of it, or possessions, good car, big house, if God has given them as a reward for your hard work education, promotions, all has been up right and honest, Biblical principles upheld, there is nothing wrong. Never be ashamed.

God gives so that we will back to Him and His work, and then He gives again and so on, I trust, God blesses you, your family and this congregation financially.

but if the Lord has withheld them from you, or you are willing to give up Biblical principles, to get worldly gain, then you sinfully covet, because you want money and don't care how you get it, no thought of Christ.

Judah and Judas set their mind fixed upon money, with no thought of Joseph or Christ. they didn't care who was effected by their lust for wealth just so long as they benefit.

Therefore, believer don't covet after that which causes you to dishonour Christ.

If you have to sell Biblical principles, and standards to climb the latter of success or promotion, gain popularity, and position, for any job, you have already failed, the Lord is not in it and He will not bless.

If you have to become impure, dishonour, disown, deny, discredit Christ's glorious person and saving work, in order fit in to some company, or group, then you never belonged there in the first place.

As Paul said in **Galatians 6:7-8** **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.**

That ought to set of alarms bells in hearts, I am willing to sell things of Christ. Blessings He bought with His own blood, I am willing to cast them aside.

You will be the poorer the rest of your life, you will suffer defeat like Samson,

Believer, covet after that which is pleasing, fix your mind to pursue Christ likeness, sow in the Spirit and reap in the Spirit.

Paul told the church **1 Cor 12:31** “**covet the best gifts...**” Gifts that will enable us to serve and glorify God.

(**1 Tim 3:1** “**..if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.**” The word **desire** is the word **covet**. When a brother desires or covet the office of the bishop. His mind is fixed on the matter, having been led in that direction by the Holy Spirit.)

(Christ said to His Apostles In **Luke 22:15**, “**with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.**”)

In **Ps 19:10** in speaking of the words of God, they “**more to be desired are they than gold...**” The word **desired**, means **to covet, to take pleasure in, to fix our eyes upon.**

Do you covet the word of God, do you fix your eyes upon the book, above other things.

The same word is employed in **Song of Sol 5:16** a reference of Christ Himself, “**yea He is altogether lovely.**” The word **lovely** the same word, **desire**, He is altogether desirable, Do you covet Christ, fix your eyes upon Him, desire Christ.

Child of God, covet the things of Christ, covet a life of serving Christ.

III THE PRICE IN THE DEAL REGARDING TO SELL JOSEPH. verse 28 “...*they...sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver*”

Joseph was sold *for twenty pieces of silver*. Judah talked himself into thinking that selling Joseph was the answer. He gave Joseph up to get gain.

Matthew 26:15 shows that Judas sold Christ for “...**Thirty pieces of silver**...” both sold for money.

Oh men and woman what price do you have on your life and family, that you would sell Christ thinking you will gain.

Many are selling Christ, removing Him from their home, marriage children’s upbringing, Bible reading, prayer time, family worship, the Lord’s house, giving them over to the world.

Many are selling Christ, the gospel for a lot less than Judah and Judas.

Believers

(sang, take the world and give me Jesus, how many today, say take Jesus and give me the world.)

They have talked themselves into believing doing away Christ is the better, as the brethren thought they were better of without Joseph.

When realising as we live in the world, Every good gift received comes from above.

Unsaved one, the value of your soul is precious, so much so that Christ died to save the soul. are you willing to gain the whole world and lose your soul and suffer eternal torment in hell.

Jesus said in **Luke 13:3** “**expect ye repent ye shall all likewise perish**”