

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 27th March 2021 Hymns Psalm 119v169-176 T Ballerma, 130, 110 Read: Genesis 37:18-24 Text Genesis 37:18-23

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Sufferings (1) Scorned & Stript.

The opening words of **verse 23** are precious words and full of great gospel truth, "**it came to pass when Joseph was come unto his brethren...**"

The brethren who once dwelt in fellowship with their father at Hebron, are now afar of, separated from their Father having gone into Shechem and now at Dothan.

Ruben the first born, had fallen into sin, and therefore, forfeited, or lost his leadership position power, praise, and pre-eminence over his brethren.

However, Joseph having been loved and favoured by the Father, was clothed with a coat of many colours.

From that very moment Joseph's brothers hated and envied him, they could not speak peaceable unto him and so deep was their hatred for their brother Joseph that they conspired against him to slay or kill him.

God according to His divine decrees intervened to spare Joseph's life at this time.

God had a purpose for Joseph to be the saviour, preserver, and deliverer of the land to save his people from death, but God to accomplish his saving purposes, in delivering the people from death in this case starvation from the famine, Joseph must walk a lonely path of suffering.

He must know humiliation before exaltation.

We must never forget this scene takes place at **Dothan** which means **law or under the law**. In order for Joseph to deliver his brethren he must experience and endure severe sufferings and shame.

Joseph came to the place of the law or under the law for the purpose of saving his brethren from death.

Joseph came willingly to Dothan, that's where is brethren where, if he was ever to save them, he must go to Dothan.

See the build up, Joseph loved by the Father, was dwelling at **Hebron** which means **fellowship**. He enjoyed fellowship with his father, then at the Father will, Joseph left his Fathers abode, the place of fellowship and came to **Shechem, a mountain range, associated with wickedness**, then to **Dothan** which mean **law or under the law**.

Joseph came to Dothan, he came to the law, recover his brethren.

Therefore men and woman see in Joseph a greater and heavenly Joseph,

the Lord Jesus Christ, who was loved by the Father, chosen and set apart for a purpose, clothed with glory and honour, left heaven, the place of fellowship, and came into this world a place associated with wickedness,

to seek the sinners spiritual and eternal being wellbeing, as the Saviour and deliverer of His people from sins penalty and punishment which is eternal death.

but He was hated, despised and rejected of men, yet He willingly put Himself under the law, to meet all its requirements to restore sinful men to God, which meant walking the path to the cross, the emblem of suffering and shame.

The reason being that's where sinners are spiritually and legally before God, at Dothan, under the law, condemned, out of Fellowship with God, that's why Paul said in **Galatians 4:4-5** Christ was "**made under the law, ⁵ To redeem them that were under the law..**"

Joseph was come unto his brethren..." praise God that Christ has come unto His people.

While Joseph's suffering pointed to Christ, yet Joseph's sufferings were to save, preserve the nation from death by the famine in prophecy that Christ would come through the line of Judah one of the brethren. But Christ's sufferings save sinners from eternal death.

Today we will consider Joseph's sufferings, but also consider the sufferings of Christ, and make the application in matters relating to redemption.

I FIRST, JOSEPH WAS SCORNE.

Verse 19 "**And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.**"

We have considered these words previously with regards to the message of Joseph's dreams. Whenever the brethren seen Joseph they remembered the message in the dreams.

However, we will discover that these words were spoken to mock Joseph. That is what the brethren mean when **they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh,**" they are mocking Joseph, they are speaking behind his back.

In fact if you have a margin in your Bible, the Hebrew rendering of the word **dreamer** reads **a master of dreams.**

Here is the one who thinks he knows it all, they are scorning, belittling, deriding Joseph. They were sarcastic about him and

toward him. This is all apart of his sufferings in life, the path way that leads to saving the nation.

Once again in the life of Joseph and in his sufferings we are directed to our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered more than any man, Christ was scorned by those who opposed him in life, at death, and even now.

During Christ's earthly ministry, He spoke by parables, earthly stories with a spiritual, eternal redemptive truth.

He also performed Miracles, healing, feeding multitudes, casting out devils, but also raising the dead, all to demonstrate as the Son of God He alone has all ability, and authority to perform these miracles because He is God, manifest in the flesh.

These miracles were not for show, but like His parables, there was spiritual, eternal and redemptive truth being demonstrated.

He is mocked as the prophet, Priest and King of His redeemed people.

We learn in **Luke 8:51-56 ff** that He enters into the house of Jaruis, whose daughter has died. People were weeping. To everyone the girl is dead, but the Lord states **v52** "***weep not she is not dead, but sleepeth***", **v53** "***and they laugh Him to scorn knowing that she was dead.***"

Having removed the mockers, Christ took her hand and spoke and the girl arose. He has all power over life and death, Not only does Christ bring spiritual life where there is spiritual death, but also all whose life He touches shall rise again.

The point the work of God he performed, the lessons taught concerning redemption, he was scorned, as our prophet.

This of his sufferings by way of scorning in **Matthew 27:29** His Kingship was mocked, ***And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!***

Psalm 22 a Prophecy of the cross, the scorning of Christ as the High Priest offering prayer and sacrifice, ,

notice verses 7-8 ***“All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.”***

Therefore believer learn the children of light will always be scorned for righteousness sake.

This was highlighted by Paul, when referring to Abrahams two sons, Ismael and Isaac. Galatians 4:29 ***“But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.”***

Paul is referring to the account in **Gen 21:9** ***“And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking.”*** The word **mocking** means ***to scoff, to deride, to make little of, It is to laugh sarcastically.***

(The word Paul uses **persecuted** is in the **imperfect tense** indicating that Ishmael was repeatedly harassing, mocking Isaac sarcastically over and over, again and again.)

Isaac was the son of promise, the seed line, God covenanted that Messiah would be born.

Ishmael was born after the flesh because Abraham and Sarah doubted God’s promise, they ran ahead and made their own

plan which ended in disaster. As a result Ishmael continually mocked, scorned Isaac the promised and chosen one.

Therefore believer in your time of scorning you may not be called a dreamer, or as Elijah in **1 Kings 18:17** called the troubler of Israel, **Elisha** was called in **2 Kings 2:23** a bald head.

Paul in **Acts 26:24** was called mad, Christ in **John 10:36** was said to be a blasphemer but you may be called a Bible basher, brain washed, Judgemental, oppressed, even talk sarcastically about Christ, make jokes.

God will deal with His and your Scorners, they are His business, if He does not save by them grace, He will deal with them in judgment.

For you believer, Keep focusing on Christ, walk by faith, continue praying and witnessing.

Peter told believers in **1 Peter 5:8** ***“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.”*** God tries or tests His people in the furnace of affliction to purify them unto vessels fit for the master use, prepared for a particular purpose as Joseph.

Joseph was scorned,

II SECOND JOSEPH WAS STRIPT.

Verse 23 ***“And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;***

The brethren refused to accept Joseph's position. They set out to dishonour him and humiliate him.

As long as Joseph wore the coat given by their father, it reminded them of the message in the dream, and strengthened their hatred.

They wanted Joseph to suffer, and at this time the best way to unleash their hatred, envy and rejection of Joseph was to dethrone him, and so ***they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;***

The word **stript** means ***to remove, take off but also rip of***. this is not a scene where the brethren are helping Joseph take his coat off or removing it gently, rather the word **stript** is a strong word with ***the idea of a raid to set upon to rush forward***.

The same meaning is used in Judges 9:33 in the context of battle, And it shall be, that in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, thou shalt rise early, and set upon the city....

The action is like the parable Christ told in **Luke 10:30** ***A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.***

This is the picture before us, this is hatred in action.

Therefore men and woman there is a clear line to Jesus Christ.

In **Matthew 27** when Jesus was delivered to be crucified, he was surrounded and taken by a group of soldiers, then in **Matthew 27:28** ***And they stripped him and put on him a scarlet robe"***, the same word **stripped** is translated in **verse**

31 as *took off*, And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him..."

This was the shame of the cross. Yet in the minds of the brethren or soldiers, they thought by removing the coat the robe, they actually removed the truth proclaimed of all glory and honour given by the Father, and then it would be theirs.

Joseph was always treated and viewed by his father as the one chosen, honoured given all authority, as was Christ.

The soldiers nor his accusers could change this, dethrone him, not rob Him of His rule and reign as the King of His people, nor could they prevent the King returning to gather His full Kingdom as one, though they made and make attempts even today.

Therefore, believer see Christ the King who was rich yet for our sakes became poor, He humbled himself, He endured the cross despising the shame, the humiliation of the cross.

Because the cross to Christ was a curse and shame. Paul said in Gal 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: Deut 23:22 states, "if a man have committed a sin worthy of death." then verse 23 "he that is hanged is accursed of God."

To be hung on a tree was the highest form of disgrace, shame and reproach that could be done to a man.

Yet Christ died not for sins of His own, this man had done nothing amiss, but our salvation to fulfil the will of God, Christ was obedient unto death the death of the cross, As Christ was hanged upon the Tree at Calvary, though He was not a sinner

in Himself, but He was viewed and treated by God as guilty, that we might we viewed and treated by God as forgiven.

Christ said in **John 3:14-15** “***as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.***”

Oh believer, you can say it was for me yes all for me, My Lord my Love is crucified. He bore on the tree the sentence for me, to bring me the rebel back to God.

All that occurred to Joseph was for the benefit and restoration of a people nationally, temporally and spiritually,

But all that Christ endured was for the Spiritual benefit and restoration of His people from every nation, for all eternity.