

Joseph 04 - Sent to Visit His Brothers - Genesis 37:12-36 - 2017-05-14

Call to Worship: John 1:1-5

Scripture Reading: John 1:6-15

Sermon: "Joseph 4 - Sent to Visit His Brothers" Genesis 37:12-36

Benediction: John 1:16-18

## INTRODUCTION

In the first lines of the history of Joseph, we have seen that he was a righteous young man, whose righteousness exposed the unrighteousness of his brothers. We have also seen that his father loved him more than his brothers, and showed his special love for him by giving him a coat of many colors. Because of his righteousness, and because of his father's special love for him, Joseph's brothers hated him.

We have learned that God revealed through dreams that Joseph would rule, not only over his brothers, but also over his whole family. But although this revelation was from God, Joseph's brothers would not have him rule over them. In fact, they hated Joseph all the more because of these dreams, and they envied him.

So, the children of Israel were in rebellion against the one God had revealed to be their ruler, and so they were in rebellion against God Himself. But I said to you last time, that God's way of saving those sinful men from the severe famine that was coming passed right through that very rebellion, making use of that sinful hatred and envy and rebellion. The One God had appointed to rule would indeed rule, but he would suffer first, and that suffering inflicted by His sinful brothers would be the means God used both to elevate Joseph to the rule over them and to save them from starvation in the famine.

What a glorious picture this paints of the sovereignty of God in saving his people, the faithful love He has for His people, even when they are dead in sin, and the powerful working out of His purpose of grace in His Beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Henry (on Genesis 37)

Joseph was here a type of Christ.

Gill (on Genesis 37:36)

Joseph was a most eminent type of Christ

## TEXT

Genesis 37:12-36

## BODY

So, the purpose of the Father to do good to His sinful sons would be worked out through the very hatred and envy and rebellion they showed toward His beloved Son. Let's see how:

- I. The Father Sent the Beloved Son to the Brothers for Their Welfare (13-14)
  - A. the father had many disobedient sons
    1. they were at some distance from him
    2. they were in a place where they had sinned terribly
      - a) against their neighbors
      - b) against their father
    3. they were exposed to danger because of their sins
      - a) Genesis 34:30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, "You have troubled me by making me obnoxious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and since I am few in number, they will gather themselves together against me and kill me. I shall be destroyed, my household and I."
  - B. the father had one obedient son, whom he loved more than any other, Joseph
    1. the father cared for his sons, though they were very sinful men, and had sinned against him dreadfully, in such a way as to send his one most beloved son to them
- II. The Beloved Son Obediently Went (13b, 14b)
  - A. He performed both parts of obedience
    1. He said he would obey
    2. He obeyed
  - B. He went alone
    1. the older brothers were gone
    2. the younger brother was too little
  - C. Young men, consider that this young man of 17 was trusted by his father to undertake an important mission for the family business that required a walk of 60 miles
    1. would you like to have your father trust you that much? be faithful in everything
  - D. Where can we better learn what "honor thy father" means?
  - E. Notice that the beloved son kept looking until he found his brothers
- III. The Brothers Rejected the Beloved Son (18-28)
  - A. That God would decide what happened, they could not endure
  - B. Their criteria for what it was okay to do were apparently
    1. "Can we get away with it?" (20)
    2. "What profit will it be in money?" (26)
  - C. See the different kinds of sinners
    1. Reuben: sexual immorality, but not violence
    2. Judah:

- a) violence, but not sexual immorality
- b) violence to a brother, but not murder
- 3. others: going along with the leaders and the group
- 4. all: intending to hide their sin by deceiving the father
  - a) not actually telling any lies, but cleverly leading the father to a false conclusion

D. Note how blind they are morally (27)

- 1. He is our brother and our flesh, so we shouldn't kill him. So let's sell him to slave traders.
- 2. They think about things, but their minds are darkened, so their thinking doesn't make sense.

E. Note that it is Judah who sells Joseph for 20 pieces of silver

F. Note that Reuben's approach did not work

- 1. going along in part, intending to undo the damage secretly
- 2. consider what would have been right: no, he is our fellow man, our brother, and the beloved of our father; far be it from us to do anything to him
- 3. consider what he actually did: let's not kill him outright, let's put him in a pit; "Okay, I'll go along with this wicked scheme, planning to fix it secretly later when no one is looking."
- 4. he was the oldest, and as such could be expected to stand for what is right, not sneak around doing wrong, trying to affect a good outcome

G. See how hard were the brothers' hearts, that they would treat their own father as they did

- 1. sold his favorite son into slavery
- 2. deceived him into thinking his son was dead by a horrible death
- 3. maintained the deception even when seeing the father's terrible grief
- 4. actually attempted to comfort the father in the grief they themselves had caused

H. Sinner, do you see what sin is, how bad it is? This is how badly you need a Savior. This is where you are headed if you do not repent. The punishment that this deserves is what is in store for you, if you do not believe in Jesus Christ.

IV. The Brothers' Rejection of the Beloved Son Sent Him to the Suffering that Would Bring Their Salvation

- A. He who was the beloved son of the father became a servant in a foreign land
- B. He who was innocent was falsely accused and treated as a criminal
- C. From imprisonment as a criminal was Joseph elevated to the right hand of Pharaoh
- D. From there Joseph provided grain to save both Israel and the gentiles in the famine

V. Fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ

- A. God the Father sent His Beloved Son down here to us sinners to visit us for our good

1. We who are disobedient are many
  2. But God the Father has One obedient Son, whom He loves more than any other eternally
  3. God knew that the world of sinners, and the nation of Israel, were violent and deceptive and hateful, but He sent His One beloved Son
  4. But God the Father sent His beloved Son into the world to save such violent, deceptive, hateful sinners
    - a) 1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. (10) In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- B. The Beloved, Only-Begotten Son of God went willingly, seeking the good of His people
1. Doing the will of God the Father - Hebrews 10:9 Behold, I have come to do your will, O God
  2. Seeking the good of His people - Luke 19:10 the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost
- C. Those To Whom the Beloved Son of God Came Rejected Him
1. the Lord Jesus was rejected by those to whom He was sent - John 1:11 He came unto His own, and His own received Him not
  2. Some, like Nicodemus, said Jesus should not be condemned for no reason, but his objection was shouted down in favor of the murderous purpose of the majority
  3. The ruling council paid in silver for one of his own disciples to sell him
    - a) note that in this case it was 30 pieces of silver
    - b) note that in this case it again was Judah who sold Him
- D. Sinners' Rejection of the Beloved Son Led to the Suffering that Would Bring Our Salvation
1. He was rejected by his brothers, the Jews, who turned him over to the Romans, not merely to become a slave, but to be crucified
  2. But this rejection by his brothers was the means by which God sent Jesus to the Romans to be scourged, mocked, and crucified, then finally pierced with a spear; all of this was for us, in our place, taking the punishment we deserved
    - a) for Reuben's adultery, for your adultery, including all the forms that has taken in your life, the lash fell upon His back
    - b) for Simeon's murder of the Shechemites, for your murderous thoughts, the nails pierced His hands
    - c) for Judah's selling his own brother into slavery, for your hatred of your brothers, the thorns pierced His brow

- d) for all the brother's extreme dishonor of their father, for your dishonor of your earthly father, and for your great dishonor of God the Father in heaven, the spear pierced His side
3. He was buried
4. Then, on the third day, he rose from the dead
5. He then ascended to the right hand of God the Father in heaven, and from there He provides salvation for His people, He does good to sinners who have dishonored His Father
6. thus is the Father's purpose in sending Jesus to His brothers fulfilled, despite sinners betrayal of Jesus, and indeed by means of it!

## CONCLUSION

The Father Sent the Beloved Son to us sinners for our welfare

The Beloved Son Obediently Went

We sinners Rejected the Beloved Son

But the By God's perfect providence, by His grace, according to His eternal decree for the salvation of sinners, our very rejection of the Beloved Son was the means by which God saves us through Him.

All praise and glory be to God the Father, and to Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

Henry:

Joseph was here a type of Christ. Though he was the beloved Son of his Father, and hated by a wicked world, yet the Father sent him out of his bosom to visit us in great humility and love. He came from heaven to earth, to seek and save us; yet then malicious plots were laid against him. He came to his own, and his own not only received him not, but consulted against him: This is the heir, come let us kill him; Crucify him, crucify him. This he submitted to, in pursuance of his design to redeem and save us.

JRY:

Young men, consider that this young man of 17 was trusted by his father to undertake an important mission alone that required a walk of 60 miles.

Where better can we learn of what "honor thy father" means?

That God would decide who would rule over them, that they could not endure!

Criterion for whether or not to do something: can we get away with it?

Calvin:

We, also, who have received the gratuitous adoption of God amidst many sorrows, experience the same thing. For, from the time that Christ gathers us into his flock, God permits us to be cast down in various ways, so that we seem nearer hell than heaven. Therefore, let the example of Joseph be fixed in our minds, that we be not disquieted when many crosses spring forth to us from the root of God's favor. For I have before showed, and the thing itself clearly testifies, that in Joseph was adumbrated, what was afterwards more fully exhibited in Christ, the Head of the Church, in order that each member may form itself to the imitation of his example.

### **verse 17 and found them in Dothan**

Trapp:

That is, In Defection. So found our Saviour his lost sheep, in utter defection, both of doctrine and manners: some four, or fewer, "that looked for the consolation of Israel."

Lawson:

But we cannot forget that He who was infinitely greater than Joseph was sold by one of His brethren, and of His disciples, for a price not much greater.

Let us not judge of God's word by His providence, but rather judge of His providence by His word.