

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH – SERMON 3

JOSEPH'S FOUNDATION OF FAITH – PART 2

Genesis 37

INTRODUCTION

- Joseph's brothers, instead of complimenting him for his special coat, envied him; instead of celebrating with Joseph over his dreams, they hated him
- In Joseph's story we witness both the best of humanity, as well as the worst
- Joseph presents one of the finest examples of godliness and grace ever recorded
- His brothers demonstrate the utter depravity, hatred and inhumanity that man is capable of
- There are many portraits of Christ to be found in this chapter:
 - ✓ Beloved of the father (3; Matthew 3:17)
 - ✓ The shepherd (2; John 10:11-14)
 - ✓ Hated by his brethren (4-5,8; John 15:25)
 - ✓ Hated for his words (8; Matthew 26:64; John 8:40)
 - ✓ His brethren believed not (5; John 7:5)
 - ✓ His reign rejected (8; Luke 19:14)
 - ✓ Testified against evil (2; John 7:7)
 - ✓ Envied (11; Mark 15:10; Matthew 27:17-18)
 - ✓ Sent by the father (13; Luke 20:13; Hebrews 10:7)
 - ✓ Sent for the welfare of others (14; John 3:17)
 - ✓ Conspired against (18; Matthew 27:1; John 11:53)
 - ✓ Delivered to the Gentiles (27; John 18:28)
 - ✓ Judah/Judas bargained (26-27; Mark 14:10)

- ✓ Stripped of clothing (23; Matthew 27:28; John 19:23)
- ✓ Persecutors sat down while he suffered (25; Matthew 27:36)
- ✓ Reviled for his testimony of himself (19-20; Matthew 27:39-44)
- ✓ Sold for pieces of silver (28; Matthew 26:15)
- ✓ Preserved in Egypt (26; Matthew 2:14-15)

I. HIS OBSERVING OF HEAVENLY COMMUNICATION

II. THE OBEDIENCE OF HIS HUMBLE CONVERSATION

III. THE OPPOSITION TO HIS HOLY CONSECRATION

A. The nature of ungodly opposition

1. Rebellion against authority (Genesis 37:8)

- a. The brothers rebelled against both Joseph's and Jacob's authority
- b. Rebellion against God-ordained leadership is rebellion against God (Numbers 16:3,11; Romans 13:1-6)

2. Resentment of others' promotion

- a. Envy is the inward pain felt when seeing others succeed
- b. All of us are prone to envy (James 4:5; cf. Numbers 11:27-29)
- c. Envy, if left unchecked, soon develops into malice (Titus 3:3)
- d. Envy is accompanied by "every evil work" (James 3:13-18)

- e. Envy is derived from a covetous heart that seeks only its own profit (26-27)
3. Retaliation against prophesying (19-20)
- a. The ungodly have always hated those who faithfully proclaim God's truth (1 Kings 22:8)
 - b. Christ was hated by the world for his testimony against their evil works (John 7:7)
 - c. There are those in churches who hate to hear the truth (Galatians 4:16; 2 Timothy 4:2-4)
- B. The response to ungodly opposition (Genesis 42:21)
- 1. All God's people will be thrown into a "pit" of some sort (Jeremiah 38:1-13; Daniel 3:19-27; 6:1-24; Psalm 40:1-3)
 - 2. This is promised (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12)
 - 3. Be prepared, not shocked
 - a. Take God's armour in readiness for the "evil day" (Ephesians 6:13)
 - b. Think it not strange when the trial comes (1 Peter 4:12-17)
 - 4. Outward circumstances do not alter God's promises (Genesis 15:12-16)
 - 5. Opposition is a test of the genuineness of one's faith (Psalms 105:17-20; Matthew 13:21)

CONCLUSION

1. Is there any trace of envy within your heart, discontent with your own state, and covetous of others'?
2. What are you willing to suffer for Christ's sake?
3. There are many who want a Christianity that the world approves of and loves
4. Such a religion is called "lukewarm" and is abominated by the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 3:18)