

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Thirty Seven

Joseph the Dreamer

Lesson Verse: John 5:45,46

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. There is perhaps no other individual found in the scriptures that presents a more vivid picture of the Lord Jesus Christ than does Joseph. The incidences that occurred in his life are pictures of events in the life of Christ. Over and over the Bible reveals to the reader the humanly character and attributes of Jesus in the ways that Joseph conducted himself in similar situations. Each detailed event that Joseph endured pointed to some episode in the life of Jesus.
- B. In a world where hero worships abounds, Joseph stands head and shoulders alone and above the rest. Consider some of these areas where Joseph made lasting and eternal impressions:
 1. As a role model for teens he did not give into fighting with his brothers and sisters.
 2. He conducted himself with virtues that are lacking in many married adults and refused the lustful intention of a woman in position.
 3. He is a role model for the business man, in that he made wise investment.
 4. He is a role model for politicians for he did not take bribes.
 5. If there is such a thing as a role model for prisoners, it is Joseph.
 6. If there is model for slaves, Joseph is at the head of the list.
 7. Candidates for revenge will have to look elsewhere to find an excuse to execute revenge on those that have wronged them. Joseph had every opportunity to inflict revenge, but he chose to forgive.
 8. Joseph is a model for the Christian in that he lived a life of faith and he had no written Bible to read. All he had to lay claim to were the promise made to his people.
 9. He always gave wise counsel to any that asked of him.
 10. In each position he occupied, he sought to elevate the one above him.
- C. If there was ever a human hero worthy of the title hero, recorded in the pages of history, it is beyond any doubt Joseph, the eleventh son of Jacob.
- D. As Joseph and the conflicts he endured are studied, Christians should be more mindful of the spiritual strength Joseph had. The same God that kept Joseph is the same God that keeps you and I.
- E. The Lord appeared to Joseph's father, grandfather, and great-grand father in visions, dreams, and man to man. The Bible does not say that the Lord appeared in either of these manners directly to Joseph. Regardless, Joseph's life manifested abundant faith in the Lord.
- F. He lived to the ripe old age of _____.

II. Study Lesson

- A. Joseph's _____ (37:1-4)
 1. Lived in _____ – the Promised Land, and also, Sinful Land
 2. Joseph is 17 years old. Joseph was born while Jacob lived with Laban (Gen 30:24). His mother's name was Rachel. His name means adding. As Joseph was born later in life, he did not see and was not involved in the fighting between Jacob and Laban. Perhaps the reason why his elder brothers fought so much was because of the environment they were raised in while Jacob lived with Laban.
 3. A Sheep-herder, _____ – just as was Abel, Moses, David and Jesus Christ
 4. A _____ – constantly exposed his brother's sins
 5. Joseph is loved _____ by Jacob
 - a. Jacob should have learned this lesson
 - b. Instead, elevates Joseph above the rest of the family - preference
 - c. Jacob made Joseph an exquisite coat of many colours
 - d. This produces hatred in the brothers, which in turn stops them from being able to love him, and speak anything peaceable to him
 6. The problems in Jacob's Family so far:
 - a. Rebellious history of the father
 - b. Love of Joseph above the other family members
 - c. Hatred by the brothers

- d. Superiority complexes
- e. Envy guides the interaction – the root sin
 - 1) Lucifer envied God
 - 2) Cain envied Abel
 - 3) The Pharisees envied Jesus
 - 4) Most people live their lives in envy of other people
- f. A home-life of constant deception
 - 1) Always acting like they loved one another in front of Daddy
 - 2) When they did get rid of Joseph, they acted like it was a beast
 - 3) Even after 20 years, when they meet up with Joseph, they have a hard time being honest about what happened in the past!

B. Joseph's _____ (37:5-12)

1. First Joseph's birth-order (the youngest) causes resentment
2. Now Joseph's dreams cause more hatred
3. Two dreams:
 - a. _____ – stacks of wheat stalks
 - 1) Josephs' sheaves stood high and tall
 - 2) All the other sheaves bowed and became servants to my sheaf
 - b. _____.
 - 1) Joseph's little star would outshine the sun, and the moon, and eleven other stars
 - 2) The sun would match Jacob
 - 3) The moon would match Rachel
 - 4) The eleven stars would match the eleven other brothers, including the new baby Benjamin
 - 5) NOTE: Rachel must be dead at this point, and yet Jacob includes her in the future prophetic understanding
 - 6) NOTE: God has given you the clear interpretation of Revelation 12:1-3)
 - a) To Rome, the woman is Mary
 - b) To Protestants, the woman is the Protestant Church
 - c) The Holy Spirit identifies her as the nation of Israel (37:9,10) – Joseph makes the twelfth star
4. The brothers, and his parents easily understood the meaning of the dreams
 - a. That Joseph would become someone great
 - b. And that the entire family (which were all older at this point) would be subject unto his rule
 - c. Quite preposterous at this point to believe!

C. Joseph's _____ (37:13-36)

1. From here on out, Joseph is going “down” in status
2. Joseph goes from being the favourite son, adorned with many colours, close at Jacob's side
 - a. Out to where the brethren were – in Shechem
 - b. Go further “a field” seeking his brethren – they keep moving further away
 - 1) Shechem is 40 miles away – long way away from the father
 - 2) Dothan is about 10 miles further
 - c. As a naive brother, he just wants to be around his brethren, but is completely rejected
 - 1) They conspired against Joseph
 - 2) Wanted to kill him
 - 3) Ultimately decide to sell him away into slavery – he would never be freed, nor return!
 - d. Sold Into Slavery (27).
 - 1) As the brothers were eating they looked and there came a company or a caravan. Judah thought of a way to make a little money out of the deal, so he suggested they sell Joseph. Judas thought of a way to make money a little extra money and sold Jesus.

- 2) The merchant men are a mixed lot. Once they purchased Joseph the caravan was made up of the three races of people: Jew—Joseph; Arabs—Descendants of Ishmael; Midianites—Gentiles.
- e. Jacob Deceived.
- 1) Just as Jacob deceived his father Isaac regarding his identity the day he stole the birthright from Esau, he is now deceived by 10 of his children. The brothers kill a kid goat and dipped Joseph's coat of many colours in the blood.
 - a) The brothers refer to Joseph as Jacob's son but not their brother (32).
 - b) The brothers take the evidence to Jacob that Joseph is dead. They do not even think enough of him to refer to him as their brother. Instead they refer to him in the third person as thy son.
 - c) The Jews referred to Jesus as anything but God's son. It is recorded about 30 times that Jesus was referred to as *this man*. Context of each usage determines whether it was a derogatory or praiseworthy remark. The day the Lord died, there was one man, the Roman centurion, that acknowledged *this man* as Jesus God's son: *Mark 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.*
 - 2) Jacob mourned. Jacob believing the worst has happened mourns for his beloved son. God the Father turned His back on His son.
 - 3) It is one thing to be sold into slavery, it is another thing to be thought of as dead – thus taking away all hope of a rescue! Yet Joseph remained close to God, and walked with God!
- f. Sold to _____ (37:36)
- 1) Each step that Joseph takes leads to a further disaster in his life
 - 2) And yet, each step leads him in the will of God (Gen 45:5-7)
 - 3) Joseph has absolutely no idea what God is doing
 - 4) All he has is
 - a) A personal walk with God – not a last minute thing he was now developing – but something he already had in operation
 - b) Hope from his dreams – knew the Lord had given him something special
 - c) And he had his life that he could live for God no matter what the circumstances!

III. Joseph's Similarities with Jesus Christ

1. Both Joseph and Jesus were loved above his brethren by his father (Gen 37:3; Mt 17:5)
2. Both of their brethren hated them (Gen 37:4; Jn 15:24,25; 1:10,11; Mt 21:33-41)
3. They stripped him of his coat (Gen 37:23; Mt 27:28)
4. Joseph was sold for twenty pieces of silver (Gen 37:37:28; Mt 26:15) – Jesus, was sold for 30
5. The Lord was with Joseph in everything He did (Gen 39:2), as He was with Jesus
6. Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are – as was Joseph (Gen 39:7)
7. It cost both Joseph and Jesus everything to do right (Gen 39:12)
8. The casting into prison is in type like going to Paradise – there Jesus preached to the captives (Gen 39:20; 1Pet 3:19)
9. Both Joseph and Jesus were Shepherds (Gen 37:2; John 10:10)
10. All our sheaves will make obeisance to Jesus' sheaf (Gen 37:7; Philp 2:6-12)
11. Both are questioned, "Shalt thou indeed reign over us?" (Gen 37:11; Jn 7:4,5; Lk 19:14)
12. Both of their brethren envied them (Gen 37:11; Mk 15:10)
13. The father's love sent Joseph out to find his brethren – the Father's love sent down Jesus to the world (Gen 37:13,14; 39:1; Jn 17:18)
14. Both Joseph and Jesus willingly go (Gen 37:13)
15. Both Joseph and Jesus have to go extra miles (Gen 37:15-17; Lk 19:10)
16. The brothers did not receive either of them when they came (Gen 37:18; Jn 1:11)
17. The brethren conspire to kill both of them (Gen 37:18; Lk 20:13,14)
18. The brethren conspire to lie about the death of both (Gen 37:20)
19. Reuben tries to save Joseph (as did Nicodemus, Gen 37:22; Jn 7:50,51)
20. They cast him into a pit where no water was (Gen 37:24; Jn 19:38)
21. They both were sold into the hands of the Gentiles (Egyptians, Gen 37:36; Romans, Mt 27:1,2)
22. They blamed another cause for Joseph's death (Gen 37:31,32; Jn 19:6,16)
23. God made everything that Jesus and Joseph do to prosper (Gen 39:3)

24. Both served everybody, but most of all, their Father (Gen 39:4)
25. The Lord blessed the Jews because of Joseph being around (Gen 39:5) – same with Jesus
26. Both Joseph and Jesus were goodly persons (of good character), and were well favoured by everyone (Gen 39:6)
27. Jesus never sinned (Gen 39:8) – Joseph never sinned in anything he did either
28. Jesus reasoned in relation to God, and the Scriptures concerning every temptation to sin – defeated the devil with TRUTH (Gen 39:8-9)
29. All that were in Paradise (the prison) were committed to Jesus power and authority (Eph 4:8; Mat 16:18)
30. Although Joseph was innocent, he was numbered with the transgressors. Compare what Isaiah recorded about Jesus, Isa 53:12, to the events recorded about Joseph.
31. Upon seeing that the butler and the baker were sad, Joseph interceded for them and interpreted their dreams. In so doing Joseph was a blessing to one and a judge to the other. Did Jesus intercede for two transgressors? Was He a blessing to one and a judge to the other? See Luke 23:39-43.
32. Joseph was bound in prison, Gen. 40:3. He was the innocent, falsely accused, accused by his brothers, accused by his old friends, and he opened not his mouth to say anything in his defence. To understand how Joseph portrays Jesus read Isaiah 53 with the plight of Joseph in mind.

IV. Conclusions