

No One Can Thwart Him

Read Genesis 37:1-11

What the people could see immediately...
was not the real story.

Discord in a family.
Brothers wanting to kill their brother (selling him)
Lying to their dad.

That's what their eyes could see...
But they couldn't see God's purpose in all of it.
That was the real story.

FCF

We fall victim to the same issue.
We tend to react to life based on what we can see.

My marriage is rough.
My kids are going off the rails.
I don't like my job.
We don't have enough money.
How are we ever going to get out of debt?

Students: I'm not making the grades.
I feel like I don't belong.
I hate myself.

For all of us...
what we can "see" dominates our perspective on life.

Yet, God is showing us that he is weaving together his purpose,
and it is far beyond what we can "see".

The thing that has you completely burdened in life...
Could it be that God is using that very circumstance
to accomplish an even greater purpose in your life and for your family?

Would we dare to believe that God would use the broken things of our lives
(sin, rebellion, deception, hatred)?
Could it be that God is using that...

For his good purpose?

God's Purpose Triumphs Over Our Parenting

(v. 3) "Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age."

(v. 3b) "And he made him a robe of many colors."

(v. 4) "But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. "

A Father's Favoritism

Well, Jacob learned this lesson from Isaac.

Isaac loved his twin brother, Esau.

And obviously, he worked his entire life trying to get his father to bless him.

And Jacob doesn't seem to have learned anything.

You know, the lesson of how his parents lived...

and the, "I won't do that with my kids." lesson.

Dysfunctional Family

Dad loves one son more.

God's Purpose Triumphs Over Our Pride

(v. 2) "Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. "

Bilhah's sons - Dan and Naphtali

Zilpah's sons - Gad and Asher

So Joseph told on 4 of his brothers to Jacob.

Yeah, not a great idea.

(v. 5) "Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more."

(Summarize v. 5-8)

Binding sheaves in the field

My sheaf was elevated.

Your sheaves bowed down to my sheaf (implied... "me")

(v. 8) Brothers reaction:
Questioned him about it.

hated him even more"
"for his dreams and his words"

(Summarize v. 9)

Sun, moon, eleven stars...
bowing down to me.
Not as subtle this time.

Dad's Reaction:

Dad (Jacob) jumps in this time.
(v. 10) Jacob "rebuked him"

"Shall I and your mother and your brothers bow before you?"

Brothers' Reaction

(v. 11) "jealous of him"

Dad:

"kept this in mind"

Joseph had to be a discerning guy.

He wasn't a fool in order to rise to 2nd in power in Egypt.

He had to know that his brothers hated him.

And then to share the first dream...
he knew even more.

Then why share the second dream?

He must of liked messing with his brothers.
Knowing that he had his father's favor....
And held it over them.

"hated him" (v. 4, 5 even more, 8 even more)

"jealous of him" (v. 11)

"could not speak peacefully to him." (v. 4)

He took something good that God revealed to him...

And used it inappropriately.

The dream wasn't the problem.

Joseph's pride as he handled it was the problem.

Impact of Sin on a Family

Diagram:

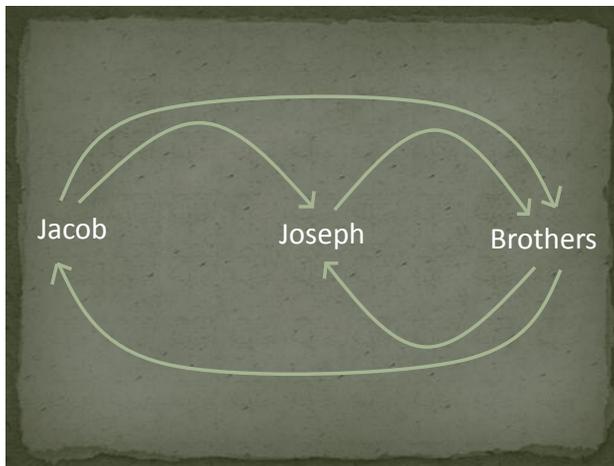
Jacob's sin towards the brothers

Jacob's sin towards Joseph

Joseph's sin towards his brothers

His brothers' sin toward Joseph

The brothers' sin toward Jacob



Implications:

Jacob's sin of favoritism...

Produces Hatred and Jealousy (in the brothers)

Their response Anger... Contemplating Murder.

Anger, Striving, Trying to prove themselves, defensiveness,
looking for anything to satisfy them (Gen. 38),
Revenge, Bitterness, Greed, Selfishness.

Only the healing that God alone can bring about can heal this type of cascading effect.

B/c the brothers could easily have said
that Jacob's favoritism caused all of these things in them.

And on one hand, I agree...

Jacob's sin had incredibly far reaching effects.

However, they are still responsible for their own sin.

It's right there that we know that we are in desperate need of Jesus.

Yes, they were victims of Jacob's failing as a father...

yet, they are also responsible for their own actions and motives
as they respond to those things.

"hate" - mentioned numerous times in the passage

Brothers hated him

Dream - hated him even more

Hate seems to drive the actions of the brothers.

Hate attempts to thwart the plan of God.

God's Purpose Triumphs Over Other People's Sin

Read (v. 12-36)

Check on your brothers (v. 12-17)

They saw him and plotted to kill him (v. 18-20)

Hatred welled up in them.

Reuben changes the plan (v. 21-22)

Take his coat, Sell him for 20 shekels of silver (v. 23-28)

Brothers betray him for money

Deceived Jacob (v. 29-35)

Not simply hurt Joseph,

But to hurt Jacob as well

How did Joseph go from Jacob's house (12 sons) --> to Egypt...

SIN

Sin was the mechanism that moved Joseph to Egypt.

Sin was what led to the salvation of this family (and the nation).

Sin was the very thing that carried along the Purpose of God.

God's Purpose Triumphs Over Sin.

Psalm 105:16-17

When he summoned a famine on the land and broke all supply of bread,
he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

God's purpose doesn't equal a harm-free life for his people.

Quite the opposite.

Jesus promises this.

Paul promises this.

And yet, we are astounded when any form of harm comes our way.

This passage is pointing us to a sobering reality.

God's purpose will quite often be carried out
through horrible circumstances for his people.

God could have orchestrated things to get him there.

But without the sin of Jacob, Joseph, and the brothers...

this story is simply an amazing story of God arranging pieces.

With the sin of those people,

this story is an amazing story of redemption and salvation.

With their sin,

the story is a story of God's grace to rebels against him.

It is a story of grace.

(v. 36) Joseph ends up in Potiphar's house in Egypt

Genesis 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.