

Sovereignty's Comfort  
10-16-2016

Gen 37:18-28

*18 They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19 They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 20 Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams." 21 But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." 22 And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; cast him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"— that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. 23 So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. 24 And they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. 25 Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. 28 Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.*

Pete: morning go work LaCrosse, evening Rochester hospital, life forever changed.

- Sometimes it's by accident, and sometimes like Joseph we are hurt by sin (own/someone else's).
- Response same: "Where is the all-powerful/loving God in all this?"
  - The Lord is at work, we are often not aware/rarely understand it. 37:5-11 dreams reveal things that are going to happen but not by chance but by the will of God.
- 1<sup>st</sup> dream clearly foreshadowed the events in 23 yrs.
- Dreams helped produce their fulfillment: made brothers so angry that they wanted him dead, but instead they sold him as a slave to the Ishmaelite's going to Egypt. 37:18-20, 24a, 26-28

We are more like brothers than we care to admit.

- We don't want anyone to reign/rule over us,
  - We question God's fairness, justice & purposes. Rom 8:7
- We dislike those who speak the truth about our sin & convict us by their righteous life. Jn 3:20, Mt 7:28-29, 21:23
- Embrace comparative morality...which is no morality at all! 37:31-33
  - Like- selling into slavery was not as bad as murder.
  - Never "said Joseph was dead", but rather "deceived" their father into believing this.
    - It's ironic that deception was involved with the killing of the goat, just like Jacob's deception of his father.

- We sometimes get jealous of someone else's relationships, position, and/or blessings from Lord. Prov 14:30, Jam 3:16 Rom. 13:13-14
  - Bitterness is really anger at God & a denial of His goodness.
  - God is sovereign, we have no right to be angry with God for what He allowed, did, or not done.
- We are in great need of someone to rescue us & transform and change us.

This story, like rest of Bible, is about sin, and the Lord's sovereignty & redemption. Jn 5:46

- God is sovereign over small insignificant things. He used those things to put Joseph in a position to save millions: colorful coat, stranger at Schechem, passing slave traders, etc.
- God even use men's sin to accomplish His will. 50:20, Act 2:23; 4:27-28
  - family strife, favoritism, hatred, jealousy, greedy slave-dealing
    - God never responsible for or handicapped by man's sin.
- God is sovereignly working all things together for good of Jacob, Joseph, HIS WAYWARD BROTHERS & millions of others....
  - Jacob left with a bloody coat or Joseph in a pit probably not believe that.

No greater comfort than to know & trust that no matter how absurd, or chaotic circumstances may seem, God in control & means it for good. For Joseph and for You! Is 55:8, Rom 8:28, Ps 23:4, Mt. 11:28, Prov. 3:5-7

- No matter what we are experiencing, sweet/bitter, good/evil, at work/in hospital, no matter how long it's lasting, the Lord has not left you alone. Heb. 13:5
- His hand of providence is at work in every detail, often when we don't "feel it" or are least aware of it. Acts 7:10

This is true because of Jesus: the Favored One who was rejected, ultimately exalted & becomes the means of blessing of those who rejected him.

- We can be redeemed, rescued & transformed because of cross.
  - Then the Father's love/favor will forever be extended to you.