

Robe of the Father's Favor  
10-02-2016

*Genesis 37:2-4*

*These are the generations of Jacob. 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. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. 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.*

I had an iPhone for years but then discovered something never saw before but was there all along.

- We all know the story of Joseph but there is something deeper, richer, personal you may have never seen before.

Gen 37-50 tells Joseph's story & how Israel wound up in Egypt for 400 years & how Abraham became a great nation. Gen 15:13-14, 12:1-2, Rom 8:28

- There are more details about Joseph's life than any other individual in Genesis
- Genesis records many difficult trials Joseph faced: death of mom/grandpa, rejection by family/friends, betrayal, isolation, sexual temptation, being falsely accused, loss of job for unfair reasons, wrongful imprisonment. "I can relate."

Born into dysfunctional family: In a sense all families dysfunctional in some way.

- Theological term: total depravity of man.

3 stepmothers, 10 step-bros, 1 bro, 1 step-sister--all living @ home.

- It was a family filled with jealousy, strife, anger, lust, deceit, competition, secrecy, rivalry, discontent, instability, hatred...constant conflict.

Shining a light in this mess was Joseph.....Obedient, faithful, & favored. Gen 37:3-4

- There was a long history of favoritism in Jacob's family...father for brother Esau.
  - In every case it created major problems & this was no exception.

The symbol of his father's favor was a multi-colored robe.

- This was either very long-sleeved & extending to feet, or richly-ornamented with either special color design or gold threading.
  - It was a royal garment & not suitable for working in. 2 Sam 13:18
- We do not really know exactly what it looked like & probably was not extremely valuable.

It was a symbol of his father's special relationship, favor toward, & choice of Joseph as future head of family.....normally bestowed upon firstborn son. Gen 35:22, 37:2a, 1 Chron 5:1, 1 Tim 4:12

- A symbol of & designated him as having authority over his brothers.
  - like a boss's suit or stripes on military uniform.
  - Joseph's brothers hated what that robe symbolized: Remember their 1<sup>st</sup> act was to strip off the coat.

Joseph was loved and favored by his father, yet despised, rejected, and hated by his brothers; they sold him for silver

- Joseph goes to Egypt and there is tempted yet remained faithful, was unjustly punished; he went down to the lowest place & was then exalted to the highest place where all bowed before him.....Sound familiar?

The life of Joseph is the greatest & clearest picture of Jesus in Old Testament.

- There is no fault or sin of Joseph's mentioned in Scripture, but that doesn't mean he was sinless.
  - His sins were not recorded in order to provide a more accurate type (divinely painted prophetic portrait) of Jesus Christ and also to illustrate the innocent suffering. *SLIDE*

Main point of Gen 37-50: direct our attention to the One greater than Joseph; Who joyfully and willingly chose to be born into the totally dysfunctional family called the human race. He was hated & rejected by his brothers, but became a means for their salvation!

- The real story behind this story: God's ultimate plan to save His people in and through Jesus Christ.

This is not just a story of Joseph but a picture of God's redemptive plan for you.

- Just as Jesus was always loved & favored by His Father.
  - If you are in Jesus then the Father's love and favor will forever be extended to you. GOSPEL