

GENESIS 37-50

Lesson 7 – God Redeems Adversity

We have seen that God has a plan that cannot be stopped. It has been His plan all along. His plan has continued despite sin, judgment, and useless people. In Joseph's story, we find that God can redeem even the deepest of sins to be used for His plan.

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SOLD HIM INTO SLAVERY. THIS SEEMS LIKE A SPECTACULAR AND EGREGIOUS SIN THAT GOD WAS FORCED TO WORK OUT FOR HIS PLAN LIKE A REACTION, A PLAN B. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ALL ALONG, GOD WAS IN CONTROL. – GEN. 12:2-3, 15:13-16

1. God made a promise to Abram that his descendants would become a great nation. – Gen. 12:2-3
 2. God also made a promise that Abram's descendants would live in exile for _____ years before He set them free. – Gen. 15:12-16
 3. God kept His promise to Abram despite the failures of His people. – Deut. 9:4-6
 4. The wretched sin of Joseph's brothers was used to fulfill the promise of God. A promise that was kept by God over the course of 500+ years. – Gen. 37
 - Their sin was driven by anger, hatred, and envy. Their sin involved bitterness, conspiring, plan for murder, slavery, lying, and immense sorrow. Their sin was redeemed by God for His plan.
 5. God used the evil of Joseph's brothers as a means of their own deliverance. – Gen. 45:4-8
- God is absolutely sovereign over the affairs of men. All along, He has been continually redeeming even the evil of mankind for the good of man and the glory of Himself. As we look at Joseph, we find that **God works in betrayal, is present in affliction, and overrules evil with God.***

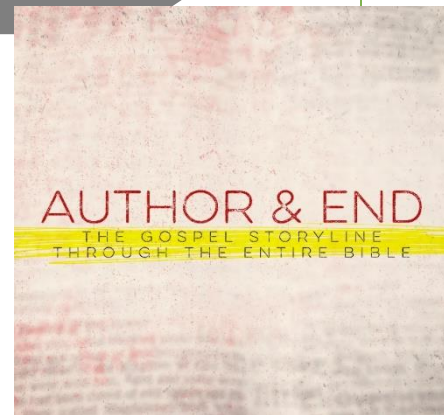
GOD WORKS IN BETRAYAL – GENESIS 37

1. The absolute brokenness of these relationships is rancid. – Gen. 37:3-5, 8, 11, 18, 21-22, 27, 31-32
 - However, this is nothing compared to the brokenness of mankind toward their Creator. Yet, God would one day work through the vehement hatred of people toward His only begotten Son to redeem the world.
2. **God meant for this betrayal to be used for good.** Specifically, for the saving of the murderous brothers and their own children and grandchildren. – Gen. 50:19-21
 - God would one day use the murderous actions of His own people and family to produce a means of salvation for the murderers themselves and all of their human brethren.
3. The betrayal of Joseph was not a sign of God's absence but His **relentless presence** in all situations.
 - Though Joseph's betrayal was great, it was only a shadow of what God's own Son, Jesus, would later experience. He too was betrayed, not to slavery but to death. He was crucified by the very people He came to save.

We can be confident when we suffer betrayal at the hands of humans that God's plan for the future is better than our own. We can leave vengeance up to the Lord and seek to obey Him consistently as He is present constantly.

GOD IS PRESENT IN AFFLICTION. – GENESIS 39-40

1. Joseph's affliction was strong. However, **we find His affliction in the presence not the absence of His God. We find it in the midst of his obedience not his rebellion.** – Gen. 39:1-3, 13-23
 - We find that Joseph was a man of integrity. He obeyed His God in comfort and agony, in private and public, and in distress and success.



2. Our hope is not in a God who keeps bad things from happening to us. Our hope is in a God who is with us in life and death. A God who sees to it that nothing separates us from His love in Jesus Christ, and a God who can and will use even bad things for good.
 - **Joseph's life points forward to Jesus. Jesus would be betrayed, handed over to captivity, stripped of His robe, unjustly sentenced, and killed. But the rejection and humiliation of Jesus was at the center of God's plan to save Israel and the world! Jesus looked abandoned by God, as if His cries to the Father went unanswered, but when that grave opened on Sunday morning, it was clear He was not alone. God vindicated His Son.**

GOD OVERRULES EVIL WITH GOOD. - 50:15-20

- As we learned in the last few weeks, this family was very wicked and dysfunctional. However, God had made a promise. Mankind has proved over and over how weak and sinful we are. God continues to prove how great and mighty He is.
 1. About seventy of Abraham's descendants entered Egypt. - Gen. 46:26-27
 2. God fulfilled His promise that these descendants would survive and live in a foreign land for 400 years. He fulfilled this promise through the wicked intentions and actions of Joseph's brothers.
 - Ex.12:37-40
 3. Probably more than a million of Abraham's descendants came out of Egypt as a nation with "much substance." - (at least 600,000 grown men) Gen. 15:12-16 & Ex. 12:37-40
 4. As Biblical Christians, we must learn to believe in a powerful, sovereign God. He is not in competition with Satan or evil for the outcome of the world. It has already been decided. God accomplishes what He has planned from the beginning. God does not need to react or counter the sins of man. This should drastically change our worldview and how we handle the sins and failures of ourselves and others.

THE SON OF JACOB GOD -

- God continually patterns throughout the Bible **that our saving victory is brought out of sin and suffering**. God used Joseph (name = *he will add*) according to His plan to fulfill His promise to add to the nation of Israel.
- All along, **God planned to use the betrayal, affliction, and evil toward His own Son to save countless people who would believe.**

The beloved Son that was envied and hated without a cause, even by His own family, foretold that one day He would rule, and others would bow. He was sent for the welfare of His brothers that hated him and he willingly went seeking until He found them. He was rejected and plotted against to die. He was stripped of His clothes and placed into the earth being sold for silver. This Son became a servant to others. Everything He did prospered, yet he resisted temptation though He was falsely accused. His own betrayal and eventual death in land far away from His home led to the provision of salvation for many. God never abandoned or was absent from His plan. He will never fail or forsake it. As we find in Genesis, God will one day complete what He planned from before He created the universe.

How has God made it clear that you do not need to envy the plan He may have for someone else's life?

Have you ever had a circumstance in which God felt absent, yet you eventually discovered Him to be very present? Describe: _____

How does God's plan in the Gospel change our perception of those that we think of as enemies? Why should the pattern we find in Joseph and throughout the Bible drive us to be merciful, patient people in this world? _____