

GENESIS 39-40

REVIEW

- **CHAPTERS 37 – THE FAVORITE SON**
 - Joseph – the youngest son of Jacob – was hated by all his brothers...
 - Jacob sent Joseph out to check up on his brothers - they conspired to kill him (*the dreamer*) ...
 - In the end they decided to throw him into a pit – starve him – then sold him to slavery...
 - Rejected by his brothers – betrayed and sold out to the world...
 - Thought to be dead – but destined to become great in the world (*Egypt*) ...
 - Only to be accepted by his brothers when they see him the second time...
 - Whom he receives with grace and forgiveness - a picture of Jesus!
- **CHAPTERS 37 – RUNNING FROM SIN...**
 - Guilty over his betrayal of Joseph – Judah ran from sin...
 - He left his family – his brothers – looking for answers in the world...
 - Judah got married and had three sons – his oldest married Tamar...
 - His first and second sons were killed by God because they were wicked!
 - Tamar knew Judah would not give his youngest son...
 - She dressed up as a prostitute – and met up with Judah - became pregnant...
 - When Judah learned Tamar was pregnant - he wanted to have her burned to death...
 - But she had proof he was the father – she ended up having twins...
 - What is amazing is that she is in the line of Jesus Christ! God uses sinners!

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD... (5 POINTS)

- **1ST - SOLD TO EGYPT... vs. 1-6**
 - 1ST – Sold to Potiphar – the captain of the guard... vs. 1-2
 - Joseph was not just purchased – purchased by a very powerful and wealthy man...
 - If he had any thought of escaping - he was now owned by the captain of the guard!
 - He was stuck – there was no getting out – no where to go...
 - It would have been easy to be overwhelmed / discouraged at this point...
 - It would have been easy to think that God had abandoned him!
 - **It is very hard for us to look beyond our circumstances – like HUGE wall...**
 - **We cannot see beyond them – we do not know what will happen next...**
 - **Too often we focus on the negative - and as a result miss what God is doing...**
 - **When we do - we are bound to be overwhelmed – filled with doubt and fear...**
 - **Anytime we get our eyes off Jesus and onto our circumstances we are in trouble!**
 - But the Lord was with Joseph...
 - Far from being forgotten by God – the Lord was right with Joseph...
 - The challenge was no looking at the circumstances – instead keeping his eyes on the Lord!
 - **When we do look to the Lord – we will see God is right there with us...**
 - **Far from abandoning us – those are the times when we are the closest to the Lord...**
 - **When things in life are easy – we tend not to rely on the Lord...**
 - **In the hardships we are the most dependent on God – glued to Him!**
 - **It is by keeping our eyes on the Lord we see beyond the moment...**
 - **We will know when we get our eyes off the Lord – because we get overwhelmed!**
 - **II Corinthians 4:18** – “We don’t look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen [*Jesus*]. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.” [NLT]

- o 2nd – Joseph was successful... vs. 2
 - Because the Lord was with Joseph – God caused him to be (*hiphil*) successful...
 - We all know what it is like to fail in life – we have all experienced disappointment...
 - Maybe we have faced / or are facing – the frustration of coming up short...
 - No matter what we do – not matter how hard we try – it just seems to fail!
 - But the key to success in life – is putting things in their proper order...
 - We must learn to put God first – then everything else will fall into place!
 - Blessings in life do not come from what we do – but who we know!
 - **Luke 12:31** – “Seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- o 3rd - Joseph found favor – [יָרָא] in the sight of Potiphar... vs. 3-6
 - Potiphar made him overseer of his house...
 - Rather than being resentful for being sold as a slave – Joseph faithfully (*piel*) served...
 - It is easy to get frustrated – think that the work we are doing is insignificant!
 - **Zechariah 4:10** – “For who has despised the day of small things?”
 - Most of us can relate to the day of small things – unimportant / seemingly insignificant...
 - But the day of small things is incredibly important – it is preparation...
 - God does not promote us straight into a position of responsibility – He prepares us!
 - He made him second in command of his whole house...
 - Potiphar only knew what he ate – everything was entrusted in the hands of Joseph...
 - As a result the Lord blessed the House of Potiphar for the sake of Joseph!
 - A lot of people step up and say they want to be used by God...
 - Only to be handed a broom / or asked to wash the dishes...
 - And they walk away – because they think they are better than menial work...
 - Or they start serving – but do not continue because it is not important to them!
 - I have noted two traits on the people God uses...
 - They have humility – realizing it is not about them – but all about Jesus...
 - And they do not give up – they persevere – do not quit hanging on to Jesus!
 - **John 15:4-5** – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.... He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
- 2ND - SIN AGAINST GOD... vs. 6-9
 - o 1st – Joseph was handsome in form and appearance... vs. 6-7
 - After some time – the wife of Potiphar cast longing eyes on Joseph...
 - And she commanded (*imperative*) him to lie with her!
 - The suggestion is that she was not an unattractive woman – perhaps even beautiful...
 - This would have been a very real temptation – day after day!
 - This is the will of God – our sanctification...
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3** – “This is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”
 - Sexual immorality – *porneia* - can be pornography / adultery / or sex before marriage!
 - The battle over sexual immorality is not just fought in what we do...
 - We avoid sexual immorality by fighting the battle in our mind - **Matthew 5:28**
 - Temptation becomes sin when we dwell on – fantasize about it – then act...
 - We allow our mind to dwell on a desire - then that desire turns to action – sin!
 - **James 1:12-15** – “Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it... brings forth death.”

- o 2nd - The response of Joseph... vs. 8-9
 - Joseph refused because of the trust Potiphar had placed on him – his whole house...
 - But more important – how could he do this wickedness – sin against God!
 - The right perspective – the sin would not be against Potiphar only – against God!
 - When King David fell into the sin with Bathsheba – it was not just him who paid...
 - It cost Uriah his life – and brought the sword against the house of David for the rest of his life...
 - But when he confessed – he declared above all else – it was against God his sinned!
 - **When we choose to sin – our sin does affect others – but the sin is against God!**
 - **That is why forgiveness comes from God – any / every sin we commit is against Him!**
 - **Psalm 51:1,4 – “Have mercy upon me, O God... Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight.”**
- 3rd – FALSE ACCUSATIONS... VS. 10-23
 - o 1st – Day after day she spoke (*piel*) intensely with Joseph... vs. 10-12
 - But Joseph would NOT listen – until one day when they were alone...
 - Joseph came in to do his work in the house – and all the men were not there...
 - And the wife of Potiphar grabbed Joseph and demanded (imperative) he sleep with her...
 - He wiggled free – left his tunic and RAN - but it would have been better not to be there!
 - **The best solution to sin – is to avoid it!**
 - **If we are tempted to have sex outside marriage – do not be alone with the opposite gender!**
 - **If we are tempted to look at pictures / cell phone – do not go near them!**
 - **Be accountable – do not trust ourselves because given the chance – we will likely sin!**
 - **II Timothy 2:22 – “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue... the Lord out of a pure heart.”**
 - o 2nd – When the wife of Potiphar saw she had been rejected... vs. 13-15
 - She took his coat – left as he fled – and told her own version of the story...
 - She told everyone – Joseph had tried to rape her – when she screamed – he ran...
 - In the process he left his clothing behind – evidence to validate her story!
 - What got Joseph into so much trouble – was being ALONE with the wife of Potiphar...
 - There was no accountability – no one who could refute her version of the story!
 - **We must be VERY careful being alone with people of the opposite gender...**
 - **We may have pure intentions – but it might open the door of temptation...**
 - **I have known godly men – pastors – who have fallen to sin because of opportunity!**
 - **There is also no way to defend ourselves if people make accusation...**
 - **If someone says something happened when you were alone – your word vs theirs...**
 - **Bottom line – 3 or 4 is fine – 1 on 1 with opposite sex – married or not – bad news!**
 - But if false accusations come – God is our defense...
 - **If you are falsely accused – when you are falsely accused – say nothing**
 - **You only have two options – you can defend yourself – or let God be your defense!**
 - **God will do a whole lot better job that you can – let Him!**
 - o 3rd – When Potiphar came home... vs. 16-23
 - She spoke with him these words (*piel*) – the Hebrew you brought in mocked me...
 - This is the second time in the Bible that the word HEBREW is used – **Genesis 14**
 - HEBREW – 34x in OT - one from beyond – Joseph was not an Egyptian / stranger!
 - When she repeated her accusation – it aroused the anger of Potiphar...
 - And he had Joseph thrown into prison – [בֵּית הַסֵּהָר] – the house of the round...
 - There is a good chance Potiphar did not believe the full story...

- No doubt if he had Joseph would not have been thrown into prison – but killed!
- No matter WHERE he was – even in prison - the Lord was with Joseph...
 - The Lord gave Joseph mercy and favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison...
 - He committed all of the prisoners into the care of Joseph...
 - He did not even look into anyone in his care – he had so much confidence in him!
 - Because WHATEVER Joseph did – the Lord caused (*hiphil*) to prosper!
- Standing for Jesus – having the Lord on our side – does not mean an easy life...
 - God does not promise us that others will love us – be nice to us...
 - God does not promise to keep us from temptation – false accusations...
 - God double – that can often leave us quiet discouraged!
- But standing for Jesus – living for Jesus – does mean...
 - God has promised He will prosper us in life!
 - Psalm 1:1-3 – “Blessed is the man... whose delight is in the law of the LORD... whatever he does shall prosper.”
 - More than that we are promised we are never alone – God is with us!
 - Hebrews 13:5 – “He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
- 4TH - THE BUTLER AND THE BAKER... VS. 1-19
 - 1ST - Offended the King – the Pharaoh of Egypt... vs. 1-4
 - IT CAME TO PASS – the second time we see this word in our text – **Genesis 39:7**
 - The phrase at face value seems to represent happenstance – life just happened...
 - But in hindsight we see God supernaturally turning events to accomplish his will!
 - This is a VERY encouraging truth – even when life seems to just be happening...
 - When life seems uncertain – we can be confident ultimately God is in control!
 - Ephesians 1:11 – “According to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will...”
 - The Baker and Butler offended the King of Egypt...
 - The likely scenario is that someone attempted to poison the Pharaoh with food...
 - The Pharaoh did not know who was responsible...
 - The Baker who made the food - or the Butler who delivered / tested the food...
 - Till an investigation found the guilty party – both were thrown in prison...
 - While they were in prison – both were put under the care of Joseph!
 - 2ND - One morning Joseph came in and found both men looked sad... vs. 5-7
 - They both had a dream the night before – both with their own interpretations...
 - Joseph asked them – WHY do you look so sad today...
 - WHY is an interesting word in HEBREW – [מָדַע] – WHAT [מָה] / to SEE [רָאָה]...
 - In other words – Joseph was asking them WHAT did you SEE to make you sad!
 - Joseph was a prisoner just like them – but he had been falsely imprisoned...
 - If anyone had a right to be sad – it was Joseph!
 - Joseph – who had nothing to be happy about – ministered to others!
 - The solution to a dark room is not to focus on how dark the room is...
 - The moment we turn on the light – the darkness is no longer a problem!
 - In the same way if we focus on our problems – we find we are still in darkness...
 - It is easy to be afraid when we look at the overwhelming circumstances facing us...
 - Because when we focus on the problem – we are not looking at the solution!
 - Joy does not come as a result of our situations – how good or bad things are...

- Joy is when we get our eyes off ourselves – off our problems – focusing on the Lord...
 - True JOY comes from our priorities – Jesus first – Others second – You last!
- o 3rd – No one to interpret the dreams... vs. 8
- Joseph answered – interpretations belong to God – tell me (*imperative*) the dreams...
 - Joseph was not special – he could not interpret dreams – but God could!
 - We are able to understand things that others miss – not because we are so smart...
 - It is because we have the Holy Spirit in us – revealing things of the Lord to us!
 - **I Corinthians 2:14** – “People who aren’t [Christians] can’t understand these truths from God’s Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them because only those who have the Spirit can understand what the Spirit means.” [NLT]
 - The wisdom of God is not the same thing as knowledge we learn in the world...
 - If you want knowledge you go to school – and you will be taught...
 - But even the most educated people – often lack wisdom in their lives!
 - Because wisdom is not learned - it is a gift of the Spirit – **I Corinthians 12:8**
 - Knowing the best choices to make in life - having Godly understanding...
 - The only way to get wisdom – is simply to come to the Lord and ask for it!
 - **James 1:5** – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”
- o 4th - The Dreams... vs. 9-19
- The BUTLER...
 - Saw a grape vine with three branches - it budded and blossomed – with ripe grapes...
 - He then took a cup and pressed the grapes into juice – handing it to Pharaoh...
 - The interpretation - 3 branches are 3 days – the butler would be restored in 3 days...
 - The BAKER...
 - When the Baker saw the interpretation was good – he shared his dream...
 - He saw 3 baskets on his head – the top basket was filled with pastries for Pharaoh...
 - Birds came and ate the pastries out of the basket on his head...
 - The interpretation - 3 baskets are 3 days – in 3 days pharaoh will behead you...
 - He will hang you on a pole – and the birds will eat your flesh!
 - The life of Joseph was tied up in DREAMS...
 - Joseph had 2 DREAMS that caused him to be the envy of his brothers – **Genesis 37**
 - He also interprets the DREAM of the Baker and Butler – AND the Pharaoh – **Genesis 41**
 - That leaves the question to be asked – can the Lord speak to us through DREAMS!
 - Jacob – Jacob DREAMT of a ladder to heaven - **Genesis 28:12**
 - Daniel – Interprets the DREAM of King Nebuchadnezzar – **Daniel 2**
 - It is not just limited to the men of the Bible – God says He will give us DREAMS ...
 - **Joel 2:28** – “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.”
 - I suppose that means if you admit to having dream from the Lord – you are old!
 - For myself – I only have visions – though sometimes with my eyes closed!
 - We need to be careful of DREAMS...
 - God speak to us through DREAMS – but that does not mean all DREAMS are from God...
 - **Ecclesiastes 5:7** – “Much dreaming and many words are meaningless.”
 - A dream from last night might be from the Lord – or from eating too much lumpia...
 - Before we make any rash decision based on dreams – we must test them!
 - The way to test the dream is to compare it to the Word – know our Bible!
 - If the dream contradicts the Word – then reject the dream!

- **Luke 2:33** – “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”
- God does not make mistakes – He also does not change His mind...
- So if the DREAM ends up not coming true – it was not from the Lord!
- **Deuteronomy 18:22** – “If the prophet predicts something in the Lord’s name and it does not happen, the LORD did not give the message.”
- The bottom line – if it is from the Lord – it will draw us closer to Jesus...
- If it does not – then the DREAM is not from the Lord!
- **John 5:39** – “You search the Scriptures because you believe they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!”
- **5TH – ALL BUT FORGOTTEN... vs. 14-15 / 20-23**
 - 1st - Remember me... vs. 14-15
 - Joseph – knowing the Butler would be released – asked him a favor...
 - Mention him before Pharaoh – free him (*hiphil*) from the prison...
 - He was stolen from his home – and put in prison by false accusations!
 - 2nd - IT CAME TO PASS... vs. 20-23
 - Three days later the Pharaoh threw a birthday party – Butler and Baker were brought up...
 - He restored the Butler – but he hanged the Baker...
 - The likely conclusion of his investigation finding the Baker guilty of trying to kill him...
 - All of which occurred just as Joseph has said!
 - Yet the Chief Butler forgot (*perfect*) about Joseph...
 - It would have been easy for Joseph to be VERY discouraged by this...
 - It would mean he would end up spending another two YEARS in prison!
 - Yet God had a plan – and in His time – Joseph would not only be set free...
 - He would also rise to become the second only to Pharaoh in all of Egypt!
 - If Joseph had gotten out sooner – none of that would have taken place...
 - The apparent forgetfulness of the Butler – was actually part of the plan of God!
 - It is easy to become discouraged when we depend on others – and they fail...
 - Yet it is not others we should be depending on – it is God who never fails us!
 - People will make mistakes – people will forget – people can be mean...
 - When we look to the Lord – even the MISTAKES of others – are just part of HIS plan...
 - As the Lord uses all things to complete His good work in our lives!
 - **Romans 8:28** – “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”
 - **Philippines 1:6** – “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”