

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Joseph: A Portrait of Jesus

SERMON REFERENCE: Genesis 37

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2251

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) To some people, the Bible is a mystery.
 - i) There is a golden key that will help unlock the Bible and its truths, and that key is the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b) The Bible is all about the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) John 5:39
 - (1) The Old Testament was written before Jesus came to the Earth in human form, and these were the Scriptures the Lord was referring to in this passage in John.
 - (a) One of these Scriptures that testify of the Lord Jesus is the life of Joseph.
- c) Joseph became a prophecy, a portrait, an illustration of the Lord Jesus Christ by divine providence.
 - i) God loves His Son, the Lord Jesus, so much that He wants to give us many snapshots and portraits of Him.
 - ii) God wants so much for us to be saved that He gives us many illustrations of salvation.
- d) The message today will look at four great episodes in the life of Joseph.

2) THE BELOVED SON (GENESIS 37:1-3)

- a) Jesus, the beloved Son, is pictured in the life of Joseph.
- b) His father's devotion:
 - i) Genesis 37:3
 - (1) Joseph, of all his brothers, was specially loved.
 - (2) Joseph was his father's beloved.
 - ii) What does this tell us about the Lord Jesus Christ?
 - (1) Matthew 3:17
 - (2) Matthew 17:5
 - (3) God's Son, Jesus, is beloved of the Father.
 - (4) This world will never settle the sin question if it ignores the Son question.
 - (a) Jesus is the Son of God.
 - (b) John 5:23
 - iii) Like Jesus, Joseph had a special name.
 - (1) Joseph's name means "abundance," "one who adds to," "multiplier."
 - (2) Jesus' name means "Jehovah saves."
 - (a) Jesus is the one whose life is full of abundance.
 - (b) John 10:10
 - (3) Jesus is the Joseph who adds to, who multiplies, who gives abundance.
- c) His faultless distinction:
 - i) Genesis 37:2
 - ii) Joseph was distinct from his brothers.
 - (1) His brothers were evil; Joseph was not.
 - (a) There's not one sin mentioned about Joseph in the Bible.

- (i) This is because Joseph is a picture of the Lord Jesus.
 - 1. Hebrews 7:26
 - iii) Joseph was not a tale-bearer; he was a truth speaker.
 - (1) Just as Joseph brought an evil report, Jesus has testified that this world is evil.
 - (a) John 7:7
 - (b) This is why the world hates Jesus.
 - iv) The mark of Joseph's distinction was his coat of many colors.
 - (1) Genesis 37:3
 - (2) This coat may also speak of the multiplicity of splendors of the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to this Earth.
 - (a) John 1:14
 - (i) Jesus is not a drab, pale, sanctimonious religious recluse; He is the happy Savior.
 - 1. Psalm 45:7
 - 2. Little children loved to come to Him and sit at His feet.
 - (ii) He's the Jesus of the coat of many colors, distinct and different in this world.
 - d) His future dominion:
 - i) Genesis 37:9
 - ii) Joseph had a dream, and he told that dream to his brothers.
 - (1) Genesis 37:5-6
 - iii) Matthew 26:64
 - (1) Jesus also spoke of His coming dominion.
 - (2) We may often ask, "What is this world coming to?"
 - (a) It is coming to Jesus.
 - (b) The world is in such a mess because things are out of place right now.
 - (i) Jesus is the King, and He belongs upon the throne.
 - (ii) Satan is the criminal, and he belongs in prison.
 - (iii) The church is the bride, and she belongs with her groom.
 - (iv) Soon, when Jesus comes again, things will all go back into place.
- 3) THE SUFFERING SERVANT (GENESIS 37:4-24)
- a) The sent one:
 - i) Like Jesus, Joseph was the sent one.
 - (1) Genesis 37:12-13
 - ii) 1 John 4:10
 - (1) Jesus is also the sent one.
 - iii) Jacob not only loved Joseph, but he loved his other sons, as well.
 - (1) He sent Joseph to minister to the other sons.
 - b) The scorned one:
 - i) Genesis 37:4
 - ii) Likewise, Jesus came unto His own, but His own received Him not.

- (1) John 1:11
- (2) John 15:24
 - (a) Jesus, the very Son of God and creator of all and the one who is infinite love, was hated and scorned by His brethren.
 - (b) This passage makes it clear that to hate Jesus is to hate the Father.
- iii) Joseph's brothers hated him because they were arrogant and full of pride.
 - (1) Genesis 37:8
 - (2) They were not going to let Joseph have dominion over them.
- iv) The world has turned against Jesus because it will not have Jesus to rule over it.
 - (1) Luke 19:14
 - (2) The world does not want to bow the knee to Jesus.
- c) The suffering one:
 - i) Genesis 37:18-28
 - ii) He suffered a conspiracy.
 - (1) Genesis 37:18
 - (a) Joseph suffered a conspiracy.
 - (2) Matthew 26:3-4
 - (a) Jesus also suffered a conspiracy.
 - iii) He suffered abuse.
 - (1) Genesis 37:23-24
 - (a) Joseph's brothers are actually trying to kill him.
 - (2) Matthew 27:26-29
 - (3) Joseph was stripped of his coat of many colors; Jesus was stripped of His seamless robe.
 - (4) Joseph descended into the pit; Jesus went down into the very pit of death.
 - iv) He suffered betrayal.
 - (1) Genesis 37:28
 - (a) Joseph was betrayed by his brothers who sold him.
 - (i) It was Judah's idea to sell him for silver.
 - 1. The New Testament name for Judah is "Judas," the one who sold Jesus for silver.
 - (2) Matthew 26:14-15
- v) The slain one:
 - (1) Genesis 37:31-34
 - (a) Joseph is slain, not in reality, but in a figure and type.
 - (b) In the mind of Jacob, Joseph was dead.
 - (c) In the eyes of his brothers, Joseph was dead; they expected him to die.
 - (i) Genesis 42:21-22
 - (2) One day long ago, the blood of God's Son, the Lord Jesus, was brought to Heaven and sprinkled upon the mercy seat in front of the Father.

- 4) THE EXALTED SOVEREIGN (GENESIS 41:38-57)
 - a) He is lifted up and glorified.
 - i) Genesis 41:38-44
 - (1) God takes Joseph from the pit and from the prison and exalts him and gives him a name which is above every name.
 - ii) Joseph, a Jewish boy, was despised, rejected, slain in a figure, languished in prison, and then was brought up and out and enthroned.
 - (1) This is a picture of our Savior, Jesus.
 - (a) 1 Peter 3:22
 - (b) Philippians 2:9-11
 - (2) Everyone had to bow to Joseph; every knee will bow to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) He is given a new name.
 - i) Genesis 41:45
 - (1) Joseph's new Egyptian name means "Savior of the World."
 - ii) Our glorified Savior is also given a new name.
 - (1) Revelation 19:12
 - c) He is given a Gentile bride.
 - i) Genesis 41:45
 - (1) After his exaltation, Joseph is given, not a Jewish bride, but a Gentile bride.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus has a Gentile bride, the church.
 - (1) Ephesians 5:25-33
 - (2) We should never abuse the bride of Christ.
 - (a) The Lord Jesus loves His bride.
 - (b) He is working on us that He might present us to Himself a spotless bride, without spot or blemish.
 - (i) Ephesians 5:27
 - d) He is the only hope for a dying world.
 - i) Genesis 41:55-57
 - (1) The only way the world could have been saved back in Joseph's times was by what Joseph did when he made provision.
 - (2) Genesis 41:49
 - ii) Joseph was the only hope in that day; Jesus is the only hope in this day.
 - (1) Acts 4:12
 - (2) Romans 10:12
- 5) THE SEEKING SAVIOR (GENESIS 45:1-5)
 - a) Like Jesus, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers.
 - i) Genesis 45:1-3
 - ii) They never would have known who Joseph was had Joseph not revealed himself to them.
 - (1) Joseph was older, dressed like an Egyptian and spoke the Egyptian language.

- iii) The only way that we will know Jesus is for Jesus to reveal Himself to us.
 - (1) God the Holy Spirit reveals to us that Jesus is Lord.
 - b) Like Jesus, Joseph forgave and restored his brothers.
 - i) Genesis 45:4-5
 - (1) In this passage, Joseph gave his brothers an invitation to come to him, and they responded and came.
 - (2) We have an invitation to come to Jesus today.
 - ii) When Joseph told his brothers to not feel badly, he was not trying to minimize their sin but to maximize God's grace.
 - iii) From man's viewpoint, Calvary was earth's greatest tragedy; from God's viewpoint, it was earth's greatest triumph.
 - (1) Genesis 50:20
 - (2) When Hell was doing its worst, God was doing His best when Jesus died upon the cross.
 - c) He commissioned his brothers.
 - i) Genesis 45:4, 9
 - (1) Our faith is summed up in this:
 - (a) "Come to me."
 - (i) Matthew 11:28
 - (b) "Go to all the world."
 - (i) Mark 16:15
 - ii) Joseph invited his brothers to come to him, he forgave them, he restored them, and then he commissioned them to go and tell a specific message.
 - (1) Genesis 45:26-27
 - (a) His brothers have now become evangelists.
 - iii) As a child of God, we have this message to share with the world:
 - (1) We once rejected Him.
 - (2) Now Jesus has been raised on high.
 - (3) He has been given a name that is above every name.
 - (4) The world is at His feet.
 - (5) He has forgiven our sins.
 - (6) He wants us to be with Him and share His glory.
 - iv) Joseph's brothers preached that he was risen, rich and reigning.
 - (1) That is the Jesus we preach today.
- 6) CONCLUSION
- a) The Bible is an amazing book.
 - i) So long ago in the first book of the Bible, God painted such a detailed portrait of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b) God wants to save us; He wants us to know Jesus.
 - c) As Joseph invited his brothers to come, Jesus is inviting us to come to Him.
 - d) What Joseph said to those who have come, Jesus is saying to us: "Go and tell others."

- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16