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.

(l) 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.

(l) 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.

(l) Genesis 37:5-6

iii) Matthew 26:64

(l) 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.

(l) Genesis 37:12-13

ii) 1 John 4:10

(l) Jesus is also the sent one.

iii) Jacob not only loved Joseph, but he loved his others sons, as well.

(l) 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.
(3) This passage makes it clear that to hate Jesus is to hate the Father.
ii) 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.
iii) 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