



Genesis 37:2-27 (NIV)

37.

²This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of

Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰"Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²³So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—²⁴and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.



SERMON NOTES

Circumstances

"Circumstances do not make me who I am, they reveal who I have chosen to be." W. Dyer

REJECTION – The Dysfunction Card

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. **Genesis 37:3**

Your present circumstances don't determine where you go, they merely determine where you start.

WILD CARD – the Character Card

My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" Gen 39:9

If you believe that God is ultimately in charge of your cards, it should change the way you play them.

SUFFERING – The Trust Card

While Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the warden." Ge 39:20

FAITH – The Plan and the Purpose

But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. Genesis 45:7

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28

"Circumstances are beyond human control, but our conduct is in our own power." B. Disraeli

Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation." Exodus 34:7

"Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?" Ge 41:38

Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"

⁸ But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹ No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" ¹⁰ And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. Genesis 39:6-10

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:19-21

SACRED JOURNEY

Lent is one of the most ancient and universal practices of the Christian world. It involves 40 days of preparation for the pinnacle of our faith, which is Easter Sunday. Lent includes uncomfortable emphases like repentance, sacrifice, and submission. The historic practice of Lent does not pander to us with quick fixes or self-help platitudes. Lent calls us to discipline. Even though the season may entail "giving up" some things, worship of the risen Christ supersedes all else.

What is the primary spiritual journey of Lent?

Lent is a time to intentionally travel the road with Jesus toward his death and resurrection, so that we become more personally connect to Him in our daily living.

Why does Lent emphasize fasting, prayer, and giving to the poor?

Fasting from food, or something else, is a symbol of the discipline it takes to turn away from sin. Prayer is the act of turning to God in dependence. Giving to the poor is the symbol of the virtue we are taking on to replace our sin.

What is a suggested discipline for Lent?

These disciplines are external practices that we engage in, trusting God will use them to bring greater spiritual awareness:

- Deny yourself a specific regular pleasure or vice for the 40 days leading to Easter (such as sweets, alcohol, tobacco, watching tv, reading the newspaper, facebook, or ____).
- Replace that time with Bible reading and prayer, or use the money you save to give to the poor.
- Fast completely (except for water) from Good Friday sunset until Easter Sunday (either before or after worship), in anticipation of the fullness of life offered through Jesus' resurrection.
- Invite an unchurched friend or family member to celebrate Easter worship with you.
- Celebrate Easter as an intentional 'Resurrection Feast.' Be specific and joyful about it!