



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

May 10, 2020

Main Point: The sin of favoritism and jealousy continue in Jacob's family.

1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1

2. Background

At the opening of Genesis 37, Jacob was playing favorites once again. He favored Rachel over Leah, and he favored Joseph over his other sons. Joseph seemed to bask in his favored position, oblivious of the resentment his brothers experienced. Jacob's special treatment of Joseph was wonderful for him, but disastrous for Jacob's other sons. Joseph's brothers hated him...and he didn't make things better as Genesis 37 continues.

3. Read this passage two times - Genesis 37:3-28

4. Process

7:2-8. If Jacob had nothing else going for him, at least he was consistent. Jacob didn't try to hide his favoritism of Rachel over Leah or his preference of Joseph over his other sons. The multi-colored robe Jacob gave Joseph was an obvious symbol of the love he had for the son born to his favorite wife, Rachel. It also drew the attention and jealousy of his other sons. This robe may have been more than a gift to a favored son. It may have signified Jacob's choice of Joseph to lead the family after him.¹ Maybe Jacob chose Joseph for this honor, rationalizing that he was the firstborn son of Rachel, the woman Jacob loved. Joseph was the firstborn who really counted. Or maybe Jacob cast aside the cultural norm of his day and chose Joseph just like God had chosen him for the firstborn privileges over his older brother Esau. While we can't be sure this is what Jacob intended by giving Joseph the multi-colored robe, Jacob placing Joseph in the role of a supervisor over his brothers supports the possibility (Gen. 37:12-17).

37:9-11. Joseph then recounted a second dream in which the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed to him. Maybe Jacob's response validated how Joseph's brothers felt about him. It's possible that their father's rebuke of the favored son fueled what would happen later. Surely, it didn't help the situation. Jacob's rebuking Joseph showed his brothers that even a favored son is not exempt from discipline. By this time, the brothers' jealousy and anger were rooted in their minds and hearts. The situation was growing more precarious, waiting for a spark to set off a violent explosion.



37:18-22 Joseph's brothers were blinded by jealousy, hatred, and strife. Jacob was apparently blind as well, since he naively sent Joseph to report on his brothers, not knowing the danger that awaited his favorite son. The doting father had given his vengeful sons the opportunity they needed against his beloved son. In Proverbs 27:4, King Solomon warned, "Fury is cruel, and anger a flood, but who can withstand jealousy?" Joseph and Jacob would soon see the wisdom of Solomon's warning.

37:23-28 In the end, the brothers did not murder Joseph—at least not with their hands. But they did murder him in their hearts (Matt. 5:21-26), as they sold him into slavery. Joseph's brothers devised an evil plan, but God works all things together for good—even the brother's jealousy, bitterness, and betrayal. God would bring about redemptive reversal—using the brother they cast aside and sold into slavery to preserve their lives in a foreign land. Joseph had to get to Egypt to stand before Pharaoh. Once there, he would use his God-given ability to interpret dreams to help Pharaoh prepare for the coming famine. God used the brothers' sin of selling Joseph into slavery to position Joseph to save the lives of the very ones who reviled him for being a dreamer and to preserve the line of the coming Messiah. On that day, the brothers would indeed bow to Joseph as he had dreamed.

4. Think About It

- What are some of the best memories you have from childhood? Is there anything that triggers those memories (a certain smell, hearing a specific song, seeing a shaggy dog, etc.)?
- How have you seen God turn around situations for His glory and our good?
- How does Joseph's story so far challenge our understanding of suffering in the Christian life?
- What makes it challenging for us as God's people to take a stand against sin in our culture?

Weely Zoom Call in RECESS
Celebrate Mother's Day with your family!



We are here for you!

Lauren & Nathan Ng

youth@gslcirvine.org

(714) 878-9737