

Scripture: Deut. 5:1-20 - Genesis 37:1-28 Children's Sermon
Singing: 266:1-3 – 140:1 – 60:1-3 – 243:1-2 – 325:1, 3

GOD'S LOVE FOR SINNERS PICTURED IN ISRAEL

I. As Father, He sent His Son to seek and save sinners

II. As Son He came to seek and save sinners

I. God the Father's Love in sending His Son to seek and save sinners

A. The story of Israel and Joseph's love (vs. 1-11)

1. Dad Israel loved son Joseph more than all (vs. 3)

2. God the Father loved His Son more than words can describe

B. The story of Israel sending Joseph away (12-14)

1. Dad Israel is worried about his other sons: vs. 12, 14

2. God the Father sent His Son into this wicked world

C. The story of Israel's expectations (vs. 14)

1. Dad Israel expected Joseph to return because he was ignorant (14c)

2. God the Father was not ignorant of what would happen to His Son

D. What does this glory of God do to you?

II. God the Son's love in His coming to seek and save sinners

A. The story of Joseph's willingness

1. He did not object to go (vs. 13)

2. He did not give up seeking his brethren (vs. 15-17)

B. The endlessly big picture of God the Son's glory

1. He agreed to leave heaven's glory and enter our world (John 1:14)

2. He came seeking and is still seeking you today

Answering and Living the Truths

A. Do you believe that you are like Joseph's brethren?

B. Do you believe that God the Father is seeking you?

C. Are you afraid to believe that such good tidings true for you?

D. Will you return to God, believing His message of welcome and grace?

We speak of the mercy of God, so boundless, so rich, and so free.
But what will it profit my soul, unless 'tis relied on by me?

We speak of salvation and love, in Jesus, the Saviour, made known,
But am I alive unto God? Has faith made salvation my own?

We speak of the Saviour's dear Name, by which God can sinners receive.
But still I am lost and undone, unless in that Name I believe.

We speak of the blood of the Lamb, which frees from pollution and sin.
But its powers by me must be proved, or shall I be ever unclean.

We speak of the glory to come, of the heavens so bright and so fair.
But unless I in Jesus believe, I shall not, I cannot be there.

I come to Thee, Lord Jesus, for Thou alone can wash and renew me,
My sins I confess before Thee with sorrow while I look for my salvation
and rest to Thee.

Questions for all:

1. As Jesus grew up, He would have read the story of Joseph. Would He have learned about His life journey from the Scripture or did He as man know all this ahead of time?
2. What can we learn from Jacob's parenting we ought never to follow in working with children or adults?
3. What strikes you most about God's love for sinners?
4. We know that Jesus died for His people. How can I believe that He died for me and thus covered all my sin in the sight of God?
5. What is more convicting to you: *the law which threatens damnation to transgressors* or *the Gospel which offers salvation to transgressors*?

For our youth:

1. Dad Jacob showed his love to Joseph in giving him expensive gifts. How would you like your parents to show their love to you?
2. Joseph obeyed his father's command without any objection. Do you think we talk back too much to our parents or teachers when they give us far less difficult instructions?
3. What do you find the hardest to believe: *that you are an undeserving sinner* or *that God is willing to pardon you fully*? Why do you find that hardest to believe?