

Joseph 02 - Loved By His Father, Hated By His Brothers - Genesis 37:1-4 - 2017-04-30

Call to Worship: 1 John 3:1

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:10-24

Sermon: "Loved By His Father, Hated By His Brothers" Genesis 37:1-4

Benediction 1 John 3:2

Genesis 37:1-4 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. (2) This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. (3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. (4) But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

INTRODUCTION

Today we continue to consider our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ by the type of Christ presented in the history of Joseph. Today we start near the beginning of the story of Joseph, and we see a development of what was introduced to us in the history of Cain killing his brother Abel. As was read to you earlier from 1 John, Cain had hatred for the one of whom God approved because Cain was unrighteous, and Abel was righteous.

In the story of Joseph, we see that theme developed, in a way that helps us greatly in knowing our Lord Jesus Christ, and understanding God's way of dealing with sinners through Him. We learn today how the story of Joseph teaches us that Jesus is loved by His Father, but hated by His brothers.

TEXT

Genesis 37:1-4 Now Jacob dwelt in the land where his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. (2) This is the history of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. And the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father. (3) Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. (4) But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

BODY

I. This Is History

A. The bible's account of Joseph is not myth or legend, but carefully-recorded history

1. NKJV history KJV, ESV generations NIV account LXX *geneseos* Vulgate *generationes*
2. *toledoth* H8435
 - a) of Jacob. Joseph . . .
 - b) 25:19 of Isaac, which is the history of Jacob
 - c) 11:27 of Terah, which is the history of Abraham
 - d) 11:10 of Shem, which is the history of his descendents to Terah
 - e) 6:9 of Noah, which is the history of Noah
 - f) 5:1 of Adam, which is the history of Adam's descendents to Noah
 - g) 2:4 of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, which is the history of Adam and his descendents to Noah
3. Joseph 17 - see how years given down to the 1s digit in Genesis
 - a) Gen 41:46 Joseph 30
 - b) Gen 47:28 Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years; lived 147 years
 - c) Gen 50:26 Joseph lived 110 years

B. The bible's account of our Lord Jesus Christ is not myth or legend, but carefully-recorded history

1. Luke 1:1-5 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, (2) just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, (3) it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, (4) that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. (5) There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah. His wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

II. He Exposed the Unrighteousness of His Brothers

A. Regarding Joseph

1. he himself was righteous
 - a) there is not a single mention in this account of Joseph doing anything wrong
 - b) there are things Joseph did that other people were made at him about
 - c) but there is no mention of Joseph doing anything sinful
2. his brothers were unrighteous
 - a) no wonder considering their ancestry
 - (1) think of their grandfather Laban

- (2) their own father Jacob
 - b) no wonder considering the people who influenced them
 - c) think of their deeds already by that time
 - (1) Simeon and Levi had deceived and then murdered all the men of the city of Shechem to get revenge on them; the rest of the brothers had then joined in pillaging the city
 - (2) Reuben slept with his father's concubine, Bilhah
 - (3) Judah married a Canaanite woman; made a promise to his daughter-in-law to deceive her; broke the promise; then slept with her, thinking she was a prostitute
 - d) think of what they were about to do
 - (1) hate their own brother
 - (2) seize their own brother and throw him into a pit
 - (3) sell their own brother into slavery
 - (4) tell lies to their father, bringing him severe grief
 - 3. Joseph brought a bad report of his brothers' conduct to their father
 - a) when their morality was judged by the standard of each other, they didn't look that bad
 - b) but just let a truly righteous person show up, and judge them in righteousness, and their unrighteousness will be known
- B. Regarding our Lord Jesus Christ
- 1. He Himself is righteous
 - a) there is not any mention of Jesus doing anything wrong
 - b) on the contrary, the bible tells us that He was tempted in every way, even as we are, yet without sin
 - 2. His brother Israelites were unrighteous, as are all of His fellow men unrighteous
 - a) no wonder considering our ancestry
 - (1) in the case of the Israelites, these very wicked brothers are their ancestors
 - (2) in the case of all mankind, Adam, the original sinner in the garden of Eden is our ancestor
 - b) think of what we had done already
 - (1) killed the prophets
 - (2) lived centuries in idolatry
 - (3) turned the Old Covenant into the legalism of the Pharisees
 - c) think of what you have done already
 - d) think of what you soon will do
 - 3. Let it be that we all just judge ourselves by the standard of each other, and we look pretty good
 - 4. But the Lord Jesus Christ has come, and has lived the life of perfect, sinless righteousness.
 - a) Now realize that judgment in the last day will be by that standard.

- b) And realize that we are disciples of His, learning to observe all things whatsoever He has commanded us
- 5. Do not have the reaction that Joseph's brothers had, and that you would have naturally, to your righteousness being exposed by the one who is righteous.

III. His Father Loved Him

A. As to Joseph

- 1. Jacob loved Rachel
 - a) it turned out that Jacob had children by three other women first
 - (1) by tricks from his father-in-law Laban
 - (2) by schemes of his wives
 - (3) by his own foolishness
 - b) but it was Rachel whom Jacob loved
- 2. So Jacob loved the son born to him by Rachel
- 3. And Joseph was, as the bible says here, a "son of old age;" scholars are unsure of what is meant by that
 - a) son born when Jacob was old
 - b) son who has the wisdom of old age even when he is young
- 4. Jacob his father loved him more than all his brothers
- 5. Jacob provided a special garment, showing that Joseph was the one whom the father favored, whom the Father loved most.

B. As to Our Lord Jesus Christ

- 1. God the Father said that He loves our Lord Jesus
 - a) at the very beginning of the Lord Jesus' ministry, that He loved Him: Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (17) And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 - b) near the end, when Jesus was transfigured before three of His disciples: Mark 9:7 And a cloud came and overshadowed them; and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"
- 2. And God the Father provided many signal miracles, showing that Jesus is the one whom the Father favors, whom the Father loves most.

IV. His Brothers Hated Him

A. In the case of Joseph

- 1. Joseph's brothers, instead of loving Joseph, hated him
 - a) Our father loves Joseph, therefore we hate him.
- 2. I mentioned to you last week that when you study the story of Joseph, you find yourself studying your own sinfulness. Well, here it is.

3. You know that God said to us, in Adam, that the day we disobeyed Him, dying we would surely die. We did disobey, and in the sense God meant, dying we surely died.
4. Something that is dead has a certain quality, which is the main quality referenced when the bible says that you were “dead in trespasses and sins.” That quality is, utter inability to do anything for yourself. Someone who is dead has that quality: utter inability to do anything for himself.
5. But something that is dead has another quality that is in evidence here: it smells. It stinks. And this is the smell of death. These men have a brother who is particularly loved and honored by their father. So they hate him. Let that sink in. You, if you are still dead in Adam, are not just unable to do anything for yourself spiritually. You also stink.
6. You know, there is something else about Joseph’s brothers hating him because their father loved him. It means they did not love their father, but hated him, too. This will be shown in their actions: they will get rid of this son their father loves, and will not scruple to lie to their father about it, bringing him severe grief for years and years. They actually hated their own father.
7. You know the end of this story. Eventually these brothers stood before Joseph, who had become ruler of all Egypt. If He had dealt with them according to what their hatred deserved, there would have been nothing for them but destruction. But Joseph dealt with them according to grace, according to love, according to mercy, according to forgiveness.

B. In the case of Our Lord Jesus Christ

1. By God’s grace, some of the people around Him loved Him.
2. But for the most part, the world hates Him. He explained why, and what that means. John 15:18-25 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. (19) If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. (20) Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. (21) But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. (22) If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. (23) He who hates Me hates My Father also. (24) If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. (25) But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.'
 - a) the world hates Jesus’ disciples, whom He loves; why?
 - b) because the world hates Jesus Himself; what does that show?
 - c) that the world hates God the Father

3. If you had to deal with God, as part of this world, which hates the disciples of Jesus Christ, hates Jesus Christ Himself, and hates God the Father, there would be nothing for you but hell, to get what your hatred of God deserves.
4. But we do not have to be counted as the kind of brothers our hatred toward Jesus deserves. Because Jesus Christ died on the cross, taking the penalty for what the sin of such hateful brothers deserves; and He was buried; but the third day He rose again from the dead. Now He sits at the right hand of God the Father in heaven, as Joseph sat at the right hand of Pharaoh in Egypt, and He deals with hateful brothers, who turn from their sin, and trust in Him, not according to what their hatred deserves, but according to the love God the Father has for the Son.

CONCLUSION

In this historical account of Joseph, we learn that he exposed the unrighteousness of his brothers, that he was loved by his father, but hated by his brothers.

This is true also of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore let everyone here be among those who have left their hatred for Christ and for the Father, and turn to Christ, trusting in Him, loving Him, and trusting and loving the Father through Him.

John 3:16-21 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (18) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (19) And this is the condemnation, that **the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. (20) For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.** (21) But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

This is the history

JRY:

Understand the nature of the ancient stories in Genesis. They are true, factual, historical records.

Joseph brought a bad report of them to his father

Lawson:

in doing so he performed a charitable and brotherly office.

If parents are to admonish or to correct their children for bad behaviour, it is necessary for them to inspect their conduct; but they cannot be always under their own eyes, and therefore they ought to reckon themselves indebted to the persons who assist them by prudent and seasonable informations in this part of their duty. Yet great caution must be used in this office of love, that we may not bring upon ourselves the guilt and reproach of officious interference in other men's matters.

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1 John 3:10-13 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (11) For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) **not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.** (13) Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you.