

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 Hymns Psalm 22v1-8 T New Britain- Amazing grace, 294, 98 Read: Genesis 37:23-28 Text Genesis 37:23-28

Series: Joseph Title: Joseph's Sufferings (2) Sorrows & Sold

When Joseph set out to seek the well being of His Father's sons, Joseph set out in full obedience.

Joseph was motivated to carry out the will of His Father.

Joseph came to Shechem and then upon discovering that his brethren had gone further and went to Dothan, Joseph immediately pursued his brethren.

Nothing was going to stop Joseph, no matter the distance, no matter the journey, Joseph searched His brethren having entered into an agreement with His Father to do so.

There was no turning back, there was no diversion, rather Joseph was committed fully to the well being of his brethren, yet Joseph suffered at the hands of those he came help. He was scorned and stript, humiliated.

In the life of Joseph we are directed time and time again to view a greater than Joseph a heavenly and eternal Joseph the Lord Jesus Christ.

It was Christ's delight to do the will of His Father and search for the spiritual well being of sinners entrusted to Him. It was to sinners given within the blood of everlasting covenant of grace that Christ was committed to save.

**Luke 9:51** states Christ. "...**stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem...**" The phrase **stedfastly set** means **to place firmly, to fix to stabilise, establish, to conform in one mind**. The idea is to turn in a certain direction and go forward without turning back. To have it settled I will go all the way.

The same word is used in Paul's letters that God's people having been built up in their faith by the gospel, they will be steadfastly set to live out the power of the gospel, In other words the truth and centrality of the gospel is settled in their mind and they will walk in that way.

This is taught in **Romans 16:25, 1 Thess 3:2** “...***in the gospel of Christ to establish you and to comfort you concerning your faith.***”

Jesus Christ “...***steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem...***” as **Phil 2:8** states ***to be obedient unto the death even the death of the cross.*** He would not turn back, He would not be set back, or second thought, Rather the redeemer of sinners, was committed personally to redeem sinners.

It was prophesied of Christ by **Isaiah 50:5-6** “***The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.<sup>6</sup> I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.***”

to redeem sinners, Christ's Path of Humiliation was one of suffering. Sinners Christ came to save where those who hated, and despised him.

Christ's sufferings included scorning, and the stripping of his clothes to humiliate Him, all by His enemies,

today as we consider more of the suffering of Joseph we want to see beyond Joseph and look to the sufferings of Christ, in his sorrows and selling.

***Having considered firstly Joseph was scorned and then secondly Joseph was stripped, please notice with me.***

### **III THIRD, JOSEPH WAS SORROWFUL.**

**Verse 24** and part of **verse 25** “***And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it<sup>25</sup> And they sat down to eat bread...***”

Again, notice the hatred in his brothers actions. The word **cast** means **to throw**, the idea is **to throw completely with purpose no holding back.**

The same word and action is in view in **Exodus 1:22** When “***Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.*** Pharaoh order that the Jewish males newly born were thrown, cast with a purpose, without hesitation.

The same word **cast** is used regarding Jeremiah a faithful Prophet of the Lord. Jeremiah was despised and rejected for delivering the word of God concerning judgment to come due to the nations sin.

There was no hesitation to cast Jeremiah into prison.

Notice **Jeremiah 38:6** “***Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.***”

**Verse 9** “***My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city***

likewise Joseph’s brethren cast him threw him with purpose, without hesitation, into the empty pit to leave him to perish.

There was no water to quench his thirst, there was no bread to feed him, rather the brethren as **verse 24** shows **they sat down to eat bread...**”

Joseph is in the pit, a lonely and forsaken place, a form of punishment. A time of trouble and distress. A place for outcasts, despised and rejected. He is mistreated. The pit was a place of sorrow.

Maybe today you are suffering by way of pit of sorrow. off course it is not a literal pit in ground, but what you are facing is real.

You feel cast down, forsaken, in a an Emotional pit, struggling with various personal, work, school family problems.

Or in a spiritual pit - struggling with sin and sinful attitudes.

Or the physical medical pit – struggling with health problems.

As your cry goes up none pay attention, people in their houses, apartments, or on the bus around you but none take notice. You are in distress like Joseph.

I assure you the Lord does care, He was ever with Joseph, while he permitted sorrow to enter his life, yet he delivered him out of all his distresses.

How do we know the sorrows of Joseph in the pit, because years later the brethren speak of occasion and they said in **Gen 42:21** **“And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.”**

The word **anguish** means **distress, distresses, trouble**. It points to his suffering of sorrow, the burdens he bore.

They saw it upon him. **that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; not only**

***did they see his sorrow, they heard his sorrow they sought them, but they refused to listen, and pay attention.***

Those words are striking and solemn, they lead us to Christ whose sorrows were magnified compared to Joseph

***They take us to the suffering sorrows of Christ on the day of the cross and the cross itself. The Garden of Gethsemane and Calvary to Christ were a pit of suffering sorrow in the highest form.***

In the Garden Christ said in Matthew 26:38 “..My soul is exceeding sorrowful...” In Psalm 22 a Prophecy of the cross, the sorrows of Christ, bearing shame and scoffing rude in the sinners place He stood.

notice Verses 12-13 “Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. <sup>13</sup> They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.”

Peter said in 1 Peter 2:21 “Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Christ submitted Himself to God because He ***committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:***, though their judgment was unjust. However, Christ the Just one came to die for the unjust.

There is more we could add, by with in all His sorrow, the people saw him, Matthew 27:47 “***Some of them that stood there...***”, they heard his sorrows they heard what is termed the seven sayings of Christ on the cross, even the word of John 19:28 **I THIRST**, but many refused to listen, they did not pay attention, they continued to mock.

***they seen them anguish of his soul, when he besought them, and they would not hear;***

I rejoice that at the cross He sealed the sinners pardon with His own blood, in verse 54-55 ***“Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus... said truly this was the Son of God. <sup>55</sup> And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him.”***

Even in his sorrows Christ was beseeching a people to trust in God. There was a people saved in answer to Christ's first prayer Father forgive them for they know not what they do, Today sinners are saved continually as a result of Christ's prayer, believer we are saved today as a result of Christ's prayer offered upon His own suffering sorrows to satisfy God's divine justice that demanded payment for sin to free sinners.

Those sorrows that He bore, that was cast upon Him was our sorrow of sin, the burden of guilt, all the shame and grief of my sin was laid upon Him.

It was my sin and my sorrow that He made His very own, He bore my burden to Calvary and suffered and died alone. Believer my soul is thrilled and my heart is filled to think he died for me.

had it not been for Christ prayers, seeking sinners, the opening of our hearts, the words of Joseph's brethren would have been our words, as Christ was preached, ***that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear;***

How marvellous, how wonderful is my Saviour's love to me, man of sorrows what a name for the son of God who came, ruined sinners to reclaim Hallelujah what a Saviour.

### **III THIRD, JOSEPH WAS SOLD. Verses 25-29.**

It was suggested by Judah in verse 27 ***“Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites...”*** verse 28 ***“Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up***

**Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.” verse 36 “and the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.”**

Now in this passage, the **Ishmeelites** believed to be descendants from Ishmael and the Midianites from Midian according to **Genesis 16:16, 25:2 &13** both were the sons of Abraham.

At times they were mentioned as one, in **Judges 8** when Gideon defeated the Midianites, and wanted their golden earrings **verse 24** ***For they had golden earrings, because they were Ishmaelites.***) both are treated and viewed as one.

But both nations throughout their history made war against Israel, set out for their destruction, as seen in **Numbers 31, Judges 6.**

Both the Midianites and Ishmeelites seem to come at the same time or where traveling together to Egypt. The Midianites appear to be business side of the family, the **merchantmen** or **tradesmen** as they are called, they strike a deal and Joseph sold.

It is interesting to note that Joseph is taken out of the pit and sold by His Jewish Brother, to the Ishmaelites Jewish Descendants, and then taken into Egypt and sold as a slave to a Gentle Ruler, **Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh.** **Psalm 105:17** ***He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:***

Joseph's brethren betrayed him, sold him, handed him over, to them Joseph was a business deal. He was handed over so easy to nations that fought against Israel.

You can see the picture all the brethren apart from Ruben was present. Judah is making the deal. And then Joseph is sold, handed over to the Ishmaelites and midianites, a people who fought against the nation of Israel because they belonged to the Lord, children of promise.

Think of the Saviour when He was sold, by a Jew, too Jews then given over to gentile Ruler .He was betrayed so easy, sold to those who desired his destruction treated as a slave before His accusers.

When Judas sold Christ to the chief priests in **Matthew 26:14** they “***covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.***” **John 18:5** “***Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.***” **Matthew 26:57** “***and they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.***” Christ stood as a slave, a prisoner, before a Gentile Ruler named Pilate to be sentence to death by crucifixion.

Never forget in the over all plan of God, He permitted Joseph to suffer, to rescue a people from the death of the famine. He permitted Christ to suffer and die upon the cross, to rescue a people from the death of sins eternal punishment.

Joseph’s scorning, stripping, sorrows and selling by those who hated him was all apart of God’s plan of redemption to spare the nation for the birth of the promised Messiah.

The messiah came and He submitted Himself to the highest form of scorning, stripping, sorrow and selling by those who hated Him as the only way to save guilty sinners who only deserve the wrath of God.

The brothers sold Joseph for money, Judas sold Christ for money, what will you do with Jesus, what and how much of your life are you selling to the world?



We have thought about the sufferings of Joseph, but when we think of Christ, There was no scorning like His scorning, no sorrow like His sorrow, no betrayal like his betrayal.

He died according to the scriptures. He must suffers these things to enter His exaltation.