

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 03 Mar.....	Genesis 21-23.....	A Substitute
2) 10 Mar.....	Genesis 24.....	Guidance Needed
3) 17 Mar.....	Genesis 25-27.....	A Deceiver
4) 24 Mar.....	Genesis 28-30.....	A Stairway
5) 31 Mar.....	John 20.....	Believe!
6) 07 Apr.....	Genesis 30-31.....	Blessed
7) 14 Apr.....	Genesis 32-33.....	Wrestled
8) 21 Apr.....	Genesis 34-36.....	Renewed
9) 28 Apr.....	Genesis 37.....	Dreamer
10) 05 May.....	Genesis 38-39.....	Accused
11) 12 May.....	Genesis 40-41.....	Revealed
12) 19 May.....	Genesis 42-46.....	Reconcile
13) 26 May.....	Genesis 47-50.....	Revenge?

INTRODUCTION

- Joseph comes on the scene and actually consumes the rest of Genesis, about 25% of the book.
 - ♦ In this chapter, Joseph ends up in Egypt as a slave for 13 years
 - ♦ Why does God put such trials on his favored servants?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 37:1-2	<p>Joseph, the Snitch – Did He Do Good or Bad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. Joseph brought back a bad/evil report ~ same word used to describe the wickedness of Noah's day (Gen 6:5), and of Sodom's evil men (Gen 13:13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What kind of bad things could shepherds do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tease the sheep? <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the sheep cheaply? <input type="checkbox"/> Brotherly fighting? <input type="checkbox"/> Any other evils? • Was Joseph in the wrong for snitching on his bro's? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Shouldn't his love for his bro's cover a multitude of sins?..... Lev 19:16; Prov 11:13; 19:11; 1Pet 4:8 • When is it appropriate to snitch on someone? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Unlawful, dangerous, wicked behavior ... Eph 5:11 • Examples: <input type="checkbox"/> Child / spouse abuse? <input type="checkbox"/> Murder? <input type="checkbox"/> Immoral behavior? <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal Drugs? <input type="checkbox"/> Theft?
A Note on Favoritism	<p>Not All Favoritism is Bad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God preferred Jacob over wicked Esau (Heb 12:16) • Joseph preferred Ephraim over Manasseh • Mary was "highly favored" to bear the Christ-child • Hard, diligent workers are favored for promotion over lazy workers • We all may have equal status at the foot of the Cross, but each of us will receive different rewards based on our godly performance here on earth • BUT, when favoritism is based not on performance, but on prejudices (personal likes & dislikes) then trouble looms → jealousy, hostility, etc.
37:3-27	<p>Joseph's Favored Status & Abilities Brought Evil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv3-4. Joseph's brothers could not speak to him on friendly terms. They were not excited about Joseph receiving favor from their dad or from God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Who's the favorite kid or g'kid in your family? Don't lie – we all have them, especially in large families, and it is typically the baby in the family ♦ In Biblical times, it typically was the oldest son who received the largest inheritance • Joseph had several marks against him <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. His dad loved him the most because he was the son of his favorite wife 2. Joseph was serious about his responsibility to report back to dad 3. ...and to make matters worse, God gave Joseph some dreams, which he shared with the family

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph, being young and naïve, probably thought his brothers would warm up to him once they realized his father trusted him, God trusted him with dreams, and he meant well – he was a do-gooder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But how do the wicked or spiritually immature typically respond to such noble characteristics? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Jealousy? <input type="checkbox"/> Animosity? <input type="checkbox"/> Ambivalence? <input type="checkbox"/> Avoidance? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? Ps 37:12, 32; Pr 29:7 • v21-22. Reuben to the Rescue. What's interesting is Reuben, the oldest son who had no issues slaying the men of Shechem & pilfering their town & who would lose his birth-right for sleeping with his step-mom, Bilhah, wanted to save Joseph from harm. • vv26-27. Judah to the Rescue. Was Judah any more noble than Reuben for seeking financial gain by selling Joseph vs throwing him into a pit?
37:28,36	<p>Joseph is Sold as a Slave</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translations differ on whether Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery or whether it was Midianites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ NASB – Midianites sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites ♦ NIV – Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmaelites • Joseph stated all of his brothers sold him Gen 45 • Also, most theologians agree the Midianites were Ishmaelites – their names were synonymous
37:29-35	<p>Jacob, the Deceiver, Is Deceived by His Own Sons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The truth of Joseph's whereabouts would be hidden from Jacob for almost 30 years. Deception is costly • Lies often lead to more lies. As Christians let's be people of integrity

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Assuming we are behaving ourselves properly, how should we handle adversity from those who think evil of us?
- Should adversity regulate how we share the truth, including the Gospel message, with friends, family, and co-workers?
 - Yes | No | Sometimes | Depends
- Even when we share the truth in love we can still get crucified
- Also, the Bible is our only infallible and reliable source today for knowing God's truth and will in every situation – Not Dreams.

NEXT WEEK: Genesis 38-39. Judah gets his daughter-in-law, Tamar, pregnant, by whom the bloodline of our Messiah comes through; God eventually established explicit laws forbidding fornication, adultery, & familial sexual relationships (Lev 18); Yet, Judah's younger brother, Joseph, understood God's moral laws of sexual behavior without needing to have explicit laws written down.

