**ROUGH CROWD- God’s Work through Joseph’s Trials**

**Family Matters…Not, Genesis 37:1-11**

Sunday, October 16, 2022

**WE Slide 1 Good morning! Great to see everyone! GOOD TIME YESTERDAY AT THE GROW CLASS.** We’re going to be digging into the story of Joseph over the next several weeks so I hope you’ll be here and invite friends/family to join you. **To get ready for that turn to Genesis 37, pg. 39. Let me kick things off by asking you a question, Slide 2 When it comes to who God uses to accomplish His will what kind of person comes to mind?**

1. Good heritage? Comes from a long line of respected people.
2. Good upbringing?Parents disciplined/trained them well.
3. Good character? Trustworthy, humble, loyal, hardworking, probably someone God wants on His team
4. Good education? Went to the right schools/right training.

**Slide 3 Would you choose a spoiled 17-year-old shepherd boy who came from a line of liars, adulterers, cheats, whose dad played favorites and was a polygamists? GOD DID! That’s Joseph!**

**Slide 4 God’s in the habit of using messed-up people like Joseph, you/me, to accomplish His will.** He does that by using our life circumstances- the people/situations we find ourselves in, to change us so we become more obedient to Him and more effective in accomplishing His will. **In this series we want to look at the people and situations Joseph faced, the ROUGH CROWDS, and how God worked through them to accomplish His will.** Before we get going let me remind you where Joseph fits into God’s ultimate plan for this world.

**WE DISCOVERED IN OUR LAST SERIES: Slide 5 God’s plan/will is to reveal Himself to those He created, restore man’s relationship with Him- we’ve sinned and are disconnected from Him, and make us more like Him.** No matter what you’re facing that’s the #1 thing God is attempting to do through that- to reveal Himself to you, draw you/others through you to Him for relationship, and once in relationship with Him change you to look more like Jesus. **Like Joseph, your life part of God’s ultimate plan to reveal Himself and restore man’s relationship with Him. Slide 6** So here’s a quick recap of where Joseph fits in God’s plan.

1. Years after Noah/ark/Tower of Babel where God supernaturally changed man’s languages, a man named Terah, the father of Abram, decided to move east from the city of Ur to Canaan but settled in Haran.
2. God initiates a relationship with Abram, who did not worship God, invites him to join God in His plans for mankind, tells him to go to a land God would show him, tells him that He will bless him/his descendants and the entire world. **Slide 7 Abram just had to trust God and God would do this.**
3. We know part of the blessing- his descendants would receive the land of Canaan- the Promised Land.
4. We know now that the blessing for the world was that one of Abraham’s descendants would be Jesus Christ who comes through the line of Judah- Jacob’s son, Joseph’s brother, the kingly line of Israel.
5. God told Abraham that before any of that could happen his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years and then God would rescue them. We know now that was what God did through Moses.
6. **God used Joseph to bring Jacob, God renamed Israel, to Egypt where they would eventually be enslaved**.

**With that as our BACKDROP let’s get into Joseph’s life and see what the first ROUGH CROWD was that Joseph had to deal with and what we can learn from his situation. READ Slide 8-16** HERE’S A BIBLICAL TRUTH: No matter who you are, where you’ve come from, or who your family is, God can accomplish His will through you. **There’s always the temptation to find excuses for why we think God can’t/won’t accomplish His will through us.** The truth is if God can use Joseph He can certainly use you and me; look at Joseph’s family dynamics! **Slide 17**

**GOD**

1. **JOSEPH’S FAMILY DYNAMICS**
2. **Great Grandparents**
3. Abraham a liar and adulterer by sleeping with Sarah’s maidservant.
4. Sarah laughed at God/promise, encouraged Abraham’s sin to sleep with her maidservant.
5. Abraham/Sarah were impatient with God and decided to try and accomplish God’s will their way.
6. **Grandparents- Isaac/Rebekah-** played favorites; Isaac/Esau, Rebekah/Jacob; Rebekah/Jacob tricked Isaac/Esau and stole Esau’s inheritance, Jacob ran for his life because Esau was going to kill him.
7. **Father- Jacob was a polygamist**
8. Tricked by FIL to marry Leah, FIL’s oldest daughter and then he was able to marry Rachel.
9. Because of jealousy/competition between Leah/Rachel over who could give Jacob children each had their maidservants sleep with Jacob to have more children. Talk about being messed up!!

**Slide 18 Not to mention Joseph who was obviously a spoiled 17-year-old who rubbed his being favored by his dad in his brother’s faces which caused them to hate him.** Talk about a ROUGH CROWD! **If anyone had an excuse for why God couldn’t work His will through them it was Joseph!** Now, before I bring this point home to our lives, let me clarify a couple of things. **Slide 19**

1. **CLARIFICATION**
2. God never approves us sinning in order to accomplish His will

**God doesn’t need us to go outside of His known will, like Joseph’s relatives did, to accomplish His sovereign will because… Slide 20**

1. God’s sovereign will ensures His plans will be accomplished. Remember our last series…
2. Sovereign will defined: The decrees/commands God makes concerning His creation and plans that will be carried out no matter what we do- **i.e., God promised to bless Abraham**.
3. Joseph’s life is a perfect example of God’s sovereign will being worked out despite man’s sinful actions.

**So what is God’s will that He’s trying to accomplish through you and me? We talked a lot about this in our last series so I’m only going to quickly mention them here.** Please go back and listen to the series for more in-depth information. **Slide 21 No matter your situation, God’s will is...**

1. **GOD’S WILL FOR US**
2. **To Glorify (Reveal) Himself to Us and through Us to Others, Isaiah 43:7**
3. **To Enter into a Personal Relationship with Us, Ephesians 1:3-6**
4. That happens when we believe Jesus took the judgment for our sins on the cross, John 1:12
5. It includes us becoming more like Jesus in how we think/respond to people, circumstances, Romans 8:29
6. It also includes making Jesus known to others as their Savior/Lord, Matthew 28:19-20

**How is it then that no matter who we are, what kind of family we’ve come from, how we were raised, or how our family is today, God can accomplish His will through us? Slide 22 As Christians we are a “new creation with a new family”.** I’ll talk more about the NEW FAMILY next week. **Here’s how Paul puts it in 2 Corinthians 5:17.** **Slide 23-24** This verse has so much in it we have to break it down.

1. **HOW WE’VE OVERCOME OUR PAST**
2. **New Creation, New Family, 2 Corinthians 5:17**
3. “new”- kainos; unprecedented, something came into being that wasn’t there before; when you placed your faith in Jesus God made you into a creation that didn’t exist before.
4. “creature”- ktisis; creation, to cause to exist that which did not exist before, always connected in the NT to God’s creative activities - earth, salvation. **Spiritually dead to spiritually alive.**
5. “old things passed away”- parerxomai; come to an end, to disappear; aorist tense- past completed action at the point of salvation; all aspects of our life before Christ from God’s point of view are gone, **doesn’t have to have power over you because....**
6. God’s created you into a spiritually alive person**. How did that happen?** **Slide 25-26** Titus 3:4-5
7. God saved us from the earthly power of sin and it’s eternal consequences of hell.
8. We were spiritually dead; God gave us spiritual life so now we live a new life. **Slide 27**

**These are the “new things that have come”…**

1. “new things have come
2. “new” same as from above;
3. “come”- ginomai; come into existence, not there previously; perfect tense- continued impact
4. You can now think/respond like you were unable to before placing your faith in Jesus.

**Slide 28 God no longer sees us as we were before placing our faith in Christ- spiritually dead enemies, He has created us into spiritually alive children with all new purpose and power for living.** Which brings us to the purpose and power we’ve been given. **Look at what Peter says in 2 Peter 1.** **Slide 29-36** No matter what you’ve done in your life, or how messed up your family was or is, you have everything you need to be used by God through your relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. **In Christ You Have Everything for Life and Godliness, 2 Peter 1:3-11**
2. Everything “has been granted” to you through Jesus- it is yours, it’s available, accessible, attainable no matter what you think, what you feel, or other people tell you.
3. You’ll only know what PROMISES God’s granted to you by being in the Bible.
4. You’ll only experience Him personally in your life by stepping out in faith- responding to life based on what He’s promised to do in and through you- the moral excellence, knowledge, self-control...
5. PETER’S NOT SAYING WE WORK FOR OUR SALVATION; he’s saying if you allow God to work in/through you you’ll grow in knowing Him better and never question your salvation.

**Next week you’ll have to come back to find out how God works through Joseph’s brothers to fulfill His plans/will.** Or better yet read ahead and find out yourselves. **But for today what should we take away from today’s message? Slide 37**

**YOU TAKEAWAY**

1. **Don’t let your family history/dynamics be an excuse for not experiencing God at work in your life.** As a Christian God’s changed you and that doesn’t need to hold you back.
2. **Slide 38 Get into the Bible and find out about all that God’s given you to experience the life He offers you.**

**Listen, it may have been our parents who brought us into this life but it’s God who wants to take us through this life.** Join up with Him and what He’s doing in this world.

**PODCAST: Pastor Harald breaks down how family dynamics don’t have to keep us from experiencing the life God offers.** Genesis 37:1-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-5; 2 Peter 1:3-11