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

**Family Hurts, Genesis 37:12-36**

Sunday, October 23, 2022

**WE Slides 1 Go ahead and turn to Genesis 37, pg. 40 as we continue to look at the ROUGH CROWDS Joseph faced and how God used those trials to work out His will in Joseph’s life.** It’s such a huge encouragement to know that God can and will use our difficult times to accomplish His will, for our good and the good of others. **OUR PRAYER is that through this series of messages we’ll learn who God is, how He operates, and trust Him to work through the conflicts we have with our ROUGH CROWDS.** **So, who is your ROUGH CROWD and what’s the difficult position they’ve put you in?** Family, friends, co-worker, boss, church family.No doubt we’ve hurt people, we’ve been hurt by people but the important question is, how are we going to respond to the hurt?

**For Joseph, like us, the first ROUGH CROWD we all deal with is our own family.** It’s interesting because even Jesus’ family was a ROUGH CROWD for Him at one point, look at Mark 3:20 **Slides 2.** **Can you imagine that? If your family thinks you have lost your senses for doing life God’s way then you’re in GREAT company!** FOLLOW along as I get things rolling this morning; we’ll start in v. 12. **Slide 3-4** **We’re not told why they’re so far away from home, but there’s a good reason why Jacob wanted Joseph to check on them Slide 5- Genesis 34.**

**GOD**

1. **THE EVENTS**
2. **Jacob Sends Joseph to Check on Brothers, Genesis 37:12-14**
3. Genesis 34 Jacob/family living near Shechem, daughter Dinah raped by the son of the tribal leader.
4. Simeon/Levi, avenged Dinah, killed all the men of Shechem. **How? You’ll have to read the story.**
5. After that God tells Jacob to move south to Bethel in the Hebron Valley. **FYI**
6. On the journey God transferred His promise to Abraham to Jacob- his descendants.
7. Rachel, Joseph’s mom, died giving birth to Benjamin the 12th son/descendants- future 12th tribe.

**SUMMARIZE Genesis 37:15-17 Joseph arrives in Shechem, doesn’t find his brothers and is told they went to Dothan- another 15 miles north, another day of walking,.** When the brothers see Joseph…

1. **SUMMARIZE Reuben Saves Joseph’s Life- Kind of…, Genesis 37:18-24**
2. Brothers see Joseph coming, they huddle up, and decide kill him.
3. Reuben, the oldest- don’t kill him, just throw him in the well; his was going to come back for Joseph.
4. The brothers take Joseph’s tunic and throw him in the well.

**You have to know the brothers were sitting there, eating lunch, thinking if we don’t do something, and we let Joseph out, he’s going to tell Jacob what we did.** Just then a caravan of traveling salesmen comes along, they flag them down, and sell Joseph into slavery. **Judah figures Why not make some money?**

1. **SUMMARIZE Judah Sells Joseph into Slavery, Genesis 37:25-28** Joseph is sold, Reuben, who’s been checking on their sheep, returns and here’s how that went down. **READ Slide 6-10**
2. **The Brothers Tell Jacob that Joseph Was Killed, Genesis 37:29-36**
3. Reuben freaks out a little not sure what to do since he would be blamed by Jacob for this/oldest.
4. They put goat’s blood on tunic, send it back to Jacob, he thinks Joseph was killed by wild animals.
5. While Jacob is mourning the loss of Joseph, Joseph is sold to Potiphar- captain of Pharoah’s bodyguards.

**So, what should our TAKEAWAY be from this part of Joseph’s life story? Slide 11 Don’t kill the family member you hate, sell them and make some money from it!** Just kidding!! **This is a transitional event in Joseph’s life showing how he got to Egypt- we don’t get any specific teaching on how to respond to the ROUGH CROWD that our family or even our church family could be in our life.** What we do know is that God has given us instructions on how to respond to those in our lives who have hurt us and especially if it seems like they are getting away with it or profiting from it. **Joseph’s brothers didn’t just do Joseph wrong, they literally profited financially from it.** Turn to Psalm 37, pg. 571, where King David, a not-so-perfect but repentant man who re-committed himself to do life God’s way, looks back on his life and the ROUGH CROWDS he faced and gives this advice to us today.

**BIBLICAL TRUTH: No matter how badly others may hurt you (context is family) God is able to accomplish His will through your response.** But there’s a CATCH, we have to first be dedicated to God in our own hearts. **Look at what God had David write.** **Slide 13-18** First, whatever our response it…

1. **OUR RESPONSE TO THOSE WHO HAVE HURT US**
2. **Must Flow from a Dedicated Relationship with God.**
3. Every main verb is a command, not a suggestion, and describes a lifestyle of dedication to God, not an occasional “touch base” relationship. **“Hey God, just checking in.” prayer, devotional thought, occasionally connecting with church family, some spiritual sounding social media post. Slide 19**
4. Those who are dedicated to God when life is calm will respond correctly to the hurt and grow in their trust of God/His ways
5. **Slide 20** Those who aren’t dedicated to God when life is calm will be rattled, disoriented, and lash out when hurt and won’t grow in their trust of God/His ways.

**Having said that, if we want God to work through us when we’ve been hurt how should we respond? Slide 21 As humans our first thought when hurt will almost always be anger/retaliation, but we need to get in the habit of praying, asking God to take control of our emotions, and respond under His control.**

1. **Don’t Remain Angry or Jealous, 37:1-2**
2. Fret- charah, “flared nostril”, burn/kindle with anger, irritation from active worry.
3. Envious- qanah; jealous; believing they are getting away with hurting you, going on with life without any consequences, God doesn’t see; **Joseph’s brothers destroyed his life in human terms AND made money on it. Joseph could have thought, where was God?** When God was intimately involved.
4. They will “wither quickly…fade”- life’s too short and people’s impact on us won’t last long so don’t give people that much power over your life.

**If we aren’t to hold onto our anger what are we to do? Here’s where the rubber meets the road with our faith. Slide 22 Our first thought may be retaliation, but our first response needs to be to trust God/do good**.

1. **Trust God by Doing Good, 37:3a**
2. Trust- batach; being confident/having security in God/His ways to respond.
3. Greek translation of the OT- elpizo: aorist imperative; do it now and don’t stop doing it. **Sounds a lot like the example Jesus gave us on the cross. Slide 23-24** 1 Peter 1:23
4. When we make TRUSTING a LIFESTYLE we’ll respond as He commands and won’t have to live in anger, worry, or fear of those who hurt us because He’ll work through our right response.

**How can you know you’re trusting God in your response? Slide 25 You will do good to them.**

1. Do Good- show your trust by obeying how God says to respond to others.
2. True faith is being actively obedient- THIS WILL LOOK DIFFERENT than your first thought.
3. That’s why God had Peter tell us this in **Slide 26-27** 1 Peter 3:8-9
4. This is the “be angry yet do not sin” command God told Paul to pass on to us, Eph 4:26
5. It’s not saying we don’t address the hurt with the person, Matt. 18, but we do it God’s way- with prayer before/during/after, grace, calmly, and looking for an outcome that brings growth for both people.

**This isn’t easy but it’s possible if we are developing a dedicated relationship with God.** David continues by telling us God commands us to “dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.” **Slide 28** **Jewish people would hear this as a reference to God’s promise concerning living faithfully in the promised land.**

1. **Dwell and Cultivate Faithfulness, 37:3b**
2. Dwell- sakan; live, reside in place, in the place of trusting God by doing good, daily, lifestyle.
3. Cultivate/faithfulness- raah; be a friend to being dependable/trustworthy to God, God can count on.

**No matter what, we stay in a position of trusting God and becoming good friends with responding His way. How do we do that? Slide 29** We make God/His commands the priority in our life. **David phrases it as “Delight yourselves in the LORD”.**

1. **Delight in the LORD**
2. Delight- anag; enjoy, be fond; to enjoy God, enjoy being with Him, in His presence
3. **We get this right?** Favorite recliner, bed, a nice juicy steak, holding our child/gchild, there’s nothing more important at the moment, our relationship with God is to be that way always.
4. Too often we are fonder of our thoughts/what we think we should do/do our first thought.
5. **Slide 30 Author James Smith**puts it this way, "Sin has taken our attention off of God- and fixed it upon ourselves, or the things around us. Grace calls our attention off of everything else- to fix it upon God. It directs us to **DELIGHT**in the Lord."

**As we grow in our enjoyment of God/His ways it becomes a lifestyle and our responses will reflect His desires which is why He can make the PROMISE He makes. Slide 31**

1. God’s Promise- He’ll give you the desires of your heart.
2. Desires- misalah; has the idea of need, He’ll give you what you need.
3. He can promise this because when you settle down next to Him and enjoy Him then His desires will become your desires and He always meets our needs.
4. The opposite is true- don’t do these things and we mess up our responses/relationships.

**David finishes up this section by circling back to trusting God.** He says “Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him. **Slide 32 He’s talked about the heart attitude and now here’s the lifestyle- living it out.**

1. **Commit and Trust in the LORD.**
2. Commit your way- galal; to roll something out; to roll out your life, live out your life as God commands.
3. You show your trust by living out how He says to live. **When we do He promises this. Slide 33**
4. God’s Promise- He will do it. **Do what?** “He will bring forth your righteousness as the light And your judgment as the noonday.”
5. Righteousness- sedeq; rightness, doing what is required; speaks to our reputation; our godly response will be seen as being right.
6. Judgment- mispat; the decision you make will be shown to be the right one.
7. God will make sure that you and others will see that your godly response was right and in that protect your character.

**Kim/I have both experienced God’s promise as have some of you.** As Christians there’s no need for us to get all worked up, fly off the handle, and injure those who have intentionally or unintentionally hurt us. **We’ve got God backing us up.** We need to take a deep breath, get with God/godly counsel, formulate a response and let God work His will through us. **As the band comes up to close what are our TAKEAWAYS? Slide 34**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Make the changes necessary to daily spend time with God in His Word to grow your fondness for God and His ways.**
2. **If you’ve hurt someone, instigator or responder, start the healing process today by asking for/giving forgiveness.**

**PODCAST- Pastor Harald talks through how God says we should respond to people/family who hurt us. Genesis 37:12-36; Psalm 37:1-6; 1 Peter 2:23, 3:8-9; Ephesians 4:26**