

God's Will Might Just Hurt!

Genesis 37:1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph, being seventeen years old,** was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and **Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.** 3 Now **Israel loved Joseph more** than all his children, because he *was* the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of *many* colours. 4 And when **his brethren saw that their father loved him more** than all his brethren, **they hated him,** and **could not speak peaceably unto him.** 5 And **Joseph dreamed a dream,** and **he told *it* his brethren:** and they **hated him yet the more.** 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: 7 For, behold, we *were* binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, **my sheaf arose, and also stood upright;** and, behold, **your sheaves** stood round about, and **made obeisance** to my sheaf. 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed **reign over us?** or shalt thou indeed have

dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 9

And he **dreamed yet another dream**, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have **dreamed a dream more**; and, behold, the **sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. 10** And he told *it* to his father, and to his brethren: and **his father rebuked him**, and said unto him, What *is* this dream that thou hast dreamed? **Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? 11** And **his brethren envied him**; but his father observed the saying.

12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. **13** And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed *the flock* in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here *am I*. **14** And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, **see whether it be well** with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. **15** And a certain man found him, and, behold, *he was* wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest

thou? **16** And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed *their flocks*. **17** And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan. **18** And when **they saw him afar off**, even before he came near unto them, **they conspired against him to slay him**. **19** And they said one to another, **Behold, this dreamer cometh**. **20** Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and **we shall see what will become of his dreams**. **21** And **Reuben** heard *it*, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. **22** And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, *but* cast him into this pit that *is* in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. **23** And it came to pass, when **Joseph was come** unto his brethren, that **they stript Joseph** out of his coat, **his coat of many colours** that *was* on him; **24** And they **took him**, and **cast him** into a pit: and the pit *was* empty, *there was* no water in it. **25** And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a

company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry *it* down to Egypt. 26 And **Judah** said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us **sell him to the Ishmeelites**, and let not our hand be upon him; for he *is* our brother *and* our flesh. And his brethren were content. 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. 29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph *was* not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child *is* not; and I, whither shall I go? 31 And **they took Joseph's coat**, and killed a kid of the goats, and **dipped the coat in the blood**; 32 And they sent the coat of *many* colours, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it *be* **thy son's coat or no**. 33 And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; **an evil beast hath devoured him**; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. 34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put

sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

- Joseph has already offended his brothers telling their dad about their bad deeds 37:2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph, being seventeen years old,** was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad *was* with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and **Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.**
- God has given Joseph a very special dream and has a very special plan for his life 37:5 And **Joseph dreamed a dream,** and **he told it his brethren:** and they **hated him yet the more.**
- Joseph is only 17 when God tells him that He has something special for him 37:2 These *are* the generations of Jacob. **Joseph, being seventeen years old,** was feeding the

flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and **Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.**

- The dream and maybe the attitude that goes with it has stirred up some real hatred for their brother
- Jacob, the dad, is the only one that thinks that maybe there is something to the dream **37:11** And **his brethren envied him;** but **his father observed the saying.**
- Hate and jealousy have caused the brothers to want to not only kill the dreamer but the dream **37:19** And they said one to another, **Behold, this dreamer cometh.** **20** Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and **we shall see what will become of his dreams.**

- I. God has an overriding plan that He is doing in this story
 - A. God is moving Joseph to Egypt to save Israel in the time of the famine
 - B. God is going to use the next 13 years to train and prepare Joseph to be the man He can use to do His will
 - C. God is forming a nation that will bring great glory to Him by defeating all the false gods of Egypt
 - D. God is preparing His people to be an example to all of us in the New Testament
 - E. God is preparing the man to write the first 5 books of the Bible
 - F. God has an over all plan that is bigger than any one person or group of people

- II. God's people are often confused and hurt because they do not understand God's over all plan--His will for our lives
 - A. Joseph's brothers determine to kill him **37:20** **Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.**

1. Joseph thinks that God has something big He wants to do in his life--he is excitedly looking forward to big things
2. Joseph is so sure of God's big plan that he announces it and gets mocked and evidently hurt
3. Joseph has no idea what God plans to do to get him to where he can do his part of the plan
4. They decide to kill him
5. Reuben talks them into putting him into a pit where he can rescue him later **37:21** *And **Reuben** heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.*
6. Judah decides to sell him into slavery **37:26** *And **Judah** said unto his brethren, What profit *is it* if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?*
7. Judah figures that they can at least make money out of the deal
8. Joseph is sold into slavery **37:36** *And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.*

B. Reuben feels responsible and is distraught **37:29** *And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and **he rent his clothes.***

1. Reuben finds out that they have sold the kid
2. He knows that he must explain things to his dad
3. Reuben is truly broken hearted that his brother is gone
4. Reuben is more worried about how this makes him look than what happened to his brother or his dad **37:30**
*And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; **and I, whither shall I go***
5. They make up a big story and deceive Jacob into thinking that Joseph is dead **37:32** *And they sent the coat of *many* colours, and they brought *it* to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it *be* **thy son's coat or no.** **33** And he knew it, and said, *It is* my son's coat; **an evil beast hath devoured him;** Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.*

C. Jacob is heart broken **37:34** *And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.*

1. He immediately jumps to the conclusion that an animal has killed his son

2. Jacob refuses to be comforted **37:35** **And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.**

3. He rejects any love from the rest of the family

4. Apparently he becomes a bitter old man

D. What we feel when things go wrong

1. We think that if God is pleased with us and things are going according to plan that all should go well

2. We see the plan from our perspective and not His

3. I must be doing something wrong or my dream would be coming true

4. I am sure this isn't God's way of doing what He showed me

5. When things don't go my way I often get a bad attitude and get angry with God and those around me

6. I have a tendency to draw up inside of myself, retreat or run

7. I usually would deny this but I end up doubting God or myself saying that I must have had it all wrong-- because it is dark--the old saying is do not doubt in the

dark what you believed in the light

III. In the middle of the storm all we can do is trust that God will work it out for His glory **Romans 8:28** And we know that **all things work** together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose. **29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did **predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **I Peter 5:6** Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that **he may exalt you in due time:**

- A. We must understand that God's ways and thoughts are not our ways and thoughts **Isaiah 55:8** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the Lord. **9** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, And my thoughts than your thoughts.
- B. We must understand that we do not understand
- C. Joseph has a dream from God and that starts a down hill spiral that seems to be getting more and more out of control

- D. Usually God allows our dreams to give us confidence and courage and excitement
- E. Then God allows our dreams to die and nearly kill us so that we understand that it is He that brings them to pass
John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. **25** He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
- F. No matter what you are going through God is working in your life to bring honor and glory to His name through you

IV. Personal applications

- A. Maybe though God hasn't given me a special dream or calling that I understand yet I should understand and help those in whom God is working so much
- B. If you have been given a dream maybe you should be a little less brash, pushy, etc because it does stir up the bad feelings

- C. Rather than being afraid of God's leadership in our lives maybe we should trust Him to do something great in our lives that will benefit not only us but many others
- D. Realize that if God has put a special calling on you that it will call for deep sacrifice of personal comforts and conveniences
- E. Understand that from the time God speaks to you about what He wants you to do until the time He will do it there will be lots of time, trials, and testings
- F. No matter what happens around you keep believing that God is working in your life and just wait to see how He is going to work it all out