

YOU SOLD ME BUT GOD SENT ME GENESIS 45

Text: Genesis 45:5

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⁵ Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

Introduction:

Many times in life it appears that those who are trying to be obedient and submissive to the Lord and God's will for their life, are the ones who have the greatest trials, testing, and temptations in their life.

This is a story of a young man who went from pit to prison to the palace.

Notice:

1. Judah's Scheme (Gen 37:23-27)

(Gen 37:23-27) "And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped 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."

Many things contributed to this some of which include:

A. Differences made by their father, which was inherited from his mother.

B. Dreams of Joseph

This led to:

- Jealousy
- Hatred

2. Jacob's Sorrow (Gen 37:29-36)

(Gen 37:29-36) "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."

- Years before, Jacob had killed 2 goats in order to deceive his father.

(Read Gen 27:6-29)

- Now his son's have deceived him the same way.
- We see a biblical principle: (Gal 6:7)

(Gal 6:7) "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."

A. We reap what we sow.

B. We reap more than we sow.

C. We reap later than we sow.

- Jacob spent the next several years in sorrow thinking that Joseph was dead.

He thought all was working against him When in reality everything was working for him.

(Gen 42:36) "And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me."

3. Joseph's Service (Gen 39:1-6)

(Gen 39:1-6) "And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. {2} And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. {3} And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. {4} And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. {5} And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had,

that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. {6} And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured."

- Joseph didn't get bitter, but rather became better through the circumstances.
- Our circumstances can become steps or stumbling blocks

4. Joseph's Seducer (Gen 39:7-12)

(Gen 39:7-12) "And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. {8} But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; {9} There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? {10} And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. {11} And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. {12} And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie

with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out."

- It easier to avoid sin than it is to resist it.
- Pride makes us think that we can resist sin.
- If you don't avoid sin but only resist it, the next step is to commit it.

5. Joseph Sentence (Gen 39:13-20)

(Gen 39:13-20) "And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, {14} That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: {15} And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. {16} And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. {17} And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: {18} And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. {19} And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. {20} And Joseph's master took

him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison."

Though Joseph did right, he was still lied about, and misleading things were said of him.

The process all started again.

Again Joseph didn't become bitter, but allowed this to make him better.

Again the Lord was with him. (Gen 39:21)

(Gen 39:21) "But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

Notice:

A. His reputation

(Gen 39:21-23) "But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. {22} And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. {23} The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand;

because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper."

B. His request

(Gen 40:14) "But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and show kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house:"

6. Forgotten Servant (Gen 40:23)

(Gen 40:23) "Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him."

- Often things that we do for others are forgotten.
- Often we forget God's goodness to us.
- Two years have now passed, and Joseph remained confined to the prison, for something he didn't do. However, God was still in control.

(Psa 18:30) "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

(1 Cor 13:12) "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

After spending 2 more years in prison, Pharaoh dreamed 2 dreams.

(Read Gen 41:1-12)

7. Joseph's Summons (Gen 41:14)

(Gen 41:14) "Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh."

Notice Joseph's reaction:

A. Cleaned himself up.

B. Changed his clothes.

He tells Pharaoh what his dreams meant. After being placed in a pit and being sold as a slave, spending years in prison, things finally begin to turn around.

8. Promoted Supernaturally (Gen 41)

- Was now 2nd in command
- Rode in the 2nd chariot

13 years have passed from the pit to the palace. (Gen 41:46)

(Gen 41:46) "And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt."

Mean while as things begin to get better for Joseph we find things have changed for his family.

9. Family Scrimping (Gen 42:1-2)

(Gen 42:1-2) "Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? {2} And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is corn in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die."

The famine has now come, and the circumstances have reversed rolls. Now Joseph's brothers are now scrimping.

Notice:

A. Some would rather look around than address the problem.

1. Action was needed.

B. There is a famine of righteousness and holiness today.

1. It's not a time to look around, but rather it's a time for action.

Many are looking at others, comparing themselves with others instead of seeing how they line up with the Word of God.

(2 Cor 10:12) "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

10. Purpose Sounded (Gen 45:1-15)

A. You sold me but God sent me

(Gen 50:20) "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Close:

Maybe the circumstances we find ourselves in may seem that we have been sold, but it could be that God has allowed them to get us where we need to be.

Don't allow them to make you bitter, but rather better so that like Joseph you can be a blessing to others in the future.