



Daily Reflections

March 2, 2018

Scripture

Genesis 37: 3-28

Israel loved Joseph best of all his sons,
for he was the child of his old age;
and he had made him a long tunic.

When his brothers saw that their father loved him best of all his sons,
they hated him so much that they would not even greet him.

One day, when his brothers had gone
to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem,
Israel said to Joseph,

"Your brothers, you know, are tending our flocks at Shechem.
Get ready; I will send you to them."

So Joseph went after his brothers and caught up with them in Dothan.

They noticed him from a distance,
and before he came up to them, they plotted to kill him.

They said to one another: "Here comes that master dreamer!
Come on, let us kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns here;
we could say that a wild beast devoured him.

We shall then see what comes of his dreams."

When Reuben heard this,
he tried to save him from their hands, saying,

"We must not take his life.

Instead of shedding blood," he continued,
"just throw him into that cistern there in the desert;
but do not kill him outright."

His purpose was to rescue him from their hands and return him to his father.

So when Joseph came up to them, they stripped him of the long tunic he had on; then they took him and threw him into the cistern, which was empty and dry.

They then sat down to their meal.

Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels laden with gum, balm and resin to be taken down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers:

"What is to be gained by killing our brother and concealing his blood? Rather, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites, instead of doing away with him ourselves.

After all, he is our brother, our own flesh."

His brothers agreed.

They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.

Our Scripture Reflection

Envy and jealousy cause tremendous harm. Both are attempts to play God by weak and sinful people. How are we as people of faith to react to those who manifest envy or jealousy towards us? Stay close to God... trust in God. God sees what no one sees and will vindicate the humble.

Food for your Journey

At one church I pastored, I was called one night to the home of a member couple. The husband had gotten out of bed to use the restroom and died on the spot. I went right over and stayed while the body was removed, and I talked and prayed with the wife. When it came time for me to leave I realized the woman had no family nearby to come and be with her. So I telephoned another woman in the congregation, one whose husband I had buried four years before. She came over and stayed the night with the newly widowed woman.

Later, the new widow told me what a comfort the other woman had been to her. She'd been through it herself, and out of her own walk through the dark

valley had been able to minister to this newly bereaved woman in a way that I could not. Some good had been redeemed out of her pain.

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A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You love and gave Your life for all people. There are those, Lord, who because of sin are never satisfied with their state in life. You give all good things as we need them. Help me to be content with my life as it is and help me to place the needs of others above my own. Amen