



Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline

Sermon 1- Sunday 24th

“The Young Dreamer” Genesis 37v1-11

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This story of Joseph is a wonderful piece of drama. It is a gripping narrative, involving a doting Father, a pampered Son, some jealous brothers, a conniving wife, and an international food crisis. It is no wonder that for centuries artists have turned to this story for inspiration. Handel produced his musical piece entitled Joseph, Thomas Mann, wrote four novels based on Joseph, and today we have the rock musical, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and its song “Any dream will do”.

However, Genesis 37-50 is much more than a piece of dramatic literature; for when you penetrate deeper, you discover a story abounding with deep theological lessons. We see the providence of God at work throughout, ruling and overruling the decisions people make; and in the end, God builds a hero, saves a family, and creates a nation that will be a blessing to the whole world. Behind this story is the covenant-making God, who always keeps his promises.

However, for the Christian believer, there is a third level to this story; for Joseph is an illustration of the Lord Jesus Christ. Joseph is like Jesus in that he was beloved by his Father and obedient to his will; hated and rejected by his own and sold as a slave; falsely accused and unjustly punished; finally elevated from a place of suffering to a powerful throne; thus saving people from death. The major difference, of course, is that Joseph was only reported to be dead, while Jesus did give his life on the cross and rose from the dead for our salvation. This story points to Jesus.

In this early verses of the account chapter 37 we learn a little about this young man called Joseph. You might describe him as a bit of a “rough diamond”. Let’s consider some of these early verses in Genesis Chapter 37 as we reflect on some of the rough and rugged edges in Joseph’s life.

1. He was immature
2. He was arrogant

In the trials and challenges, we face in life God is at work in his providence working all things together for our good. He is working in us so that he can work more effectively through us. He sees our potential and is moulding us and shaping us for what lies ahead. God will never leave us as we are – He will constantly refine and prune us to be the real “diamond” He knows is underneath.

So we look to Christ. He is our inspiration. He is with us. We fix our eyes on Jesus as we run the race set before us. God the Father has plans and purposes for our lives. We know we are not perfect but we allow God to perfect us.

Study Questions

Ice breaker- What is your most embarrassing moment from your childhood?

- 1/ What are some of the key theological threads that weave through the story of Joseph?
- 2/ We are told in Jeremiah 29v11 that the Lord has good plans for our life. What comfort does this bring to you?
- 3/ Describe Joseph. What do we know about him?
- 4/ What does the phrase “that person is a rough diamond” mean to you? In what ways was Joseph a rough diamond?
- 5/ There are three nasty behaviours listed in the first four verses of chapter 37. Can you name them?
- 6/ Who played favourites and why? What is dangerous about this?
- 7/ What is envy? Why were Joseph’s brothers envious? Have you ever been envious?
- 8/ What did Joseph dream about? (Gen 37v5-11). Why did it annoy his brothers?
- 9/ God’s will for our life is that we grow in maturity? How can this take place?
- 10/ The Bible says in Proverbs 16v18 that: “Pride comes before a fall.” Why is pride so dangerous? How can we possess humility in our life and what does that look like?