



Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline

Sermon 2- Sunday 3rd March

“If you lack wisdom, ask for it” Genesis 37v1-11

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“If you lack wisdom, ask for it” Genesis 37v1-11

Joseph was one of the greatest leaders in the Bible. He was a Rough Diamond but he grew in his faith and maturity through adversity and suffering according to the providence of God. **Romans 8v28: “And God works all things together for the good of those who love him.”**

Providence is the means by which God directs all things — both animate and inanimate, seen and unseen, good and evil — toward a worthy purpose, which means his will must finally prevail. What a blessing for the believer. Despite our questions, our suffering, even our doubts, he’s got the whole world in his hands.

At the end of Joseph’s life he would testify that God was providentially working out his good and perfect will. **Genesis 50 v19-20. “But Joseph said to his brothers, Don’t be afraid, AM I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is being done, the saving of many lives.”** God was providentially working all things together for good.

As we discussed last week, Joseph in his younger years was a bit of a diamond in the rough. He was immature and a bit arrogant. He had a lot to learn.

As Christians we all have a lot to learn. We are all a work in progress. The more we grow the more we are aware how much more growing needs to take place. I really believe that if it wasn’t for the pit and the prison Joseph wouldn’t have made it to the palace and the role of Prime Minister. There is a word of real comfort here for the believer. In the trial God is at work maturing your faith and working all things together for your good and his glory.

At this stage in Joseph’s life he also lacked wisdom. However, his Father had not been the best example:

- Jacob was not a great example to his Son, **Gen 27, Gen 30**
- Jacob was at times deceitful, **Gen 35v22,**
- Jacob at times lacked wisdom by saying too little

Joseph lacked wisdom in his youth, **Gen 37v2, 5** Joseph was a rough diamond. He would go on to become a great leader and display great wisdom. God worked all things together for Joseph’s good and for God’s glory according to his providential will. If you want to reach your potential, seek the Lord and his wisdom.

Wisdom is Precious. **Proverbs 4v7-9.** Realise how precious it is.

Wisdom should be sought.- **James 1v5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”**

Study Questions

Ice breaker- What is the biggest way you've changed since you were a child? In what way are you still the same?

1/ Who do you think has been the greatest leader in our world in the last century and why?

2/ What makes a person great?

3/ The hidden hand of God is seen throughout this story as God works out his providential will. What comfort does this doctrine bring to you in your Christian life? Can you give an example?

4/ In what ways was Jacob not a good example to his children?

5/ What are the primary responsibilities of a Father?

6/ In what ways did Joseph lack wisdom in the early stages of his life?

7/ What did Joseph dream about? (**Gen 37v5-11**). Why did his brothers get upset about Joseph telling them about the dream? Why do you think he told his brothers about the dream?

8/ Define Biblical wisdom? Why is it important?

9/ Read Proverbs 4v7-9. What can we learn about wisdom from these verses?

10/ in 1 Kings 3 we are told that God appears to Solomon in a dream and tells him to ask whatever he wanted of God. This young boy asked for wisdom. Why was this a good choice?