



**Viewfield Baptist Church, Dunfermline**

**Sermon 4- Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**"You meant it for evil, God meant it for Good" Genesis 37v12-**

**36**

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### **“You meant it for evil, God meant it for good” Genesis 37v12-36**

The Bible tells us that all people sin. **“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” Rom 3v23.** We are also told that sin is destructive. **Galatians 5v19-21.** Also that sin separates us from God.

**Jesus can forgive us of our sin. 1 Cor 15v57: “But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** Through faith in him we are justified. However, for our ongoing walk with God and our sanctification, we still need to regularly come and confess our sin. We must be careful not to allow sin to hold us back in our walk with God.

We see a catalogue of sin and evil in Genesis 37 as the brothers plot, conspire, slander, lie and seek to justify all their actions. We see them sin but we see this sin grow and grow, leading to some horrible consequences. Hatred, envy and jealousy were the seeds for the horrendous events that followed as the brothers scheme and plot and act to get rid of their own brother Joseph.

However, in the midst of the sins of the brothers in their attitude and actions towards Joseph, God was in control. Joseph would explain this to his brothers later on in the story: **Gen 50v19-20: “What you meant for evil, God meant for good.”**

God was working all things together for the good. This doesn't mean that God approved of or engineered the brothers' sin or that they weren't responsible for what they did. It does mean that God is so great that he can work out his purposes even when people are doing their worst. God intended it for good for the saving of many peoples life's.

There is a clear parallel here with the events surrounding the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. God was working all things together for good. Sinful men and women intended to harm him and get rid of him. They meant it for evil but God meant it for good, for the saving of many people's lives. **Acts 4v27-28.**

God's hand was in it. In both instances, despite the suffering at the hands of sinful people, God was working out his plan for the saving of many people's lives.

We can see comparisons when we see the way that the brothers acted towards Joseph and the way people acted towards Jesus.

1. Conspiracy **Gen37v18. Mth 26.**
2. Mocking **Gen 37v23. Luke 23v11, Mth 27v28**
3. Deceit **Gen 37v20. Mth 26v59.**
4. Self-justification **Gen 37v20. Mth 27v39-43**

There is a clear parallel in these events in Joseph's life with the events surrounding the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. God was working all things together for good. Sinful men and women intended to harm them and get rid of him. They meant it for evil but God meant it for good, for the saving of many people's lives.

The Bible tells us that Jesus died to save people of their sins. We read in this story of the destructiveness of sin. In Paul's letter to the Romans he writes: **“All have sinned and fallen short of God's standard. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.”**

Salvation is available through faith in Christ. In Romans we are also told that God demonstrated his own love for us in this. While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Sin is a problem. Jesus is a great saviour. Salvation belongs to our God.

**Study Questions** Ice breaker- Describe one of your most embarrassing moments?

1/ Why is sin such a problem?

2/ In these verses in Genesis 37 we see hatred, envy and jealousy among other sins? Read also **Matthew 5v21-26**, Do you struggle with some of these sins?

3/ Why did the brothers want to harm Joseph? Did they want revenge? Is revenge ever right? **Read Matthew 5v38-48**

4/ Who stopped them from killing Joseph and why?

5/ What happened to Joseph after he was thrown in the pit?

6/ What spiritual resources do we have available in our daily battle with the temptation to sin? Please quote some scriptural references.

7/ We can see comparisons between the way that the brothers acted towards Joseph and the way people acted towards Jesus. What were they?

8/ The death of Jesus on the cross is described as the demonstration of the love of God. What does it mean to you that Jesus suffered so much at the hands of sinful men to earn your salvation? How does that change the way you live your life?

This week: Share the gospel with someone.