Why Doesn’t God Stop Them? September 10, 2023

*Genesis 37:2-28 Series: God at Work When We Can’t See Him*

I thought when I became a Christian I had nothing to do but just to lay my oars in the bottom of the boat and float along. But I soon found that I would have to go against the current. – D.L. Moody

Intro: Victory in sight

1. Great plans don’t mean easy paths

v. 5 *Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.*

v. 8 *His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.*

v. 9 *he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers …*

v. 10 *his father rebuked him*

v. 11 *his brothers were jealous of him*

* Did you ever think the way D.L. Moody did, that becoming a Christian would make life easy?
* What do you think Joseph was thinking as he tried to understand his dreams and his family’s reaction to them?

1. Great plans require your growth

v. 2 *Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers.*

v. 2 *And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father.*

v. 9 *he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers*

v. 23 *So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore.*

* If God had promoted Joseph right away, how would things have been different for him?
* How have the obstacles in your life matured you?

1. Great plans are bigger than you

v. 3 *Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors.*

v. 4 *But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.*

Genesis 25:28 *Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.*

Genesis 4:8 *Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.*

Genesis 27:41 *Now Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him, and Esau said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are approaching; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”*

* If God had promoted Joseph right away, how would things have been different for his family?
* How can the trials in our lives help other people to grow?
* How would it change our perspective if we saw a trial in someone else’s life as God’s means to mature us?

1. Joseph shows us the road to the cross

Mark 1:11-12 *And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.*

John 11:53 *So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.*

Matthew 26:15 *“What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.*

Luke 21:16 *You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death.*

Hebrews 5:8-9 *Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation …*

* How should Joseph’s story in this chapter have helped shape the Israelites’ expectation of the path of the Messiah’s life?
* What does it mean that Jesus “learned obedience through what he suffered”?
* In what sense is Joseph’s story our story as believers?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Genesis 39:6-23

Notes