**The Favorite Son of the Father**

Genesis 37:1-28; Acts 7:9-13; Genesis 45:1-15

Brent Baker

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

September 18, 2018

# **Genesis 37:1-28**

Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan.

**2**These are the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **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. **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.

**5**Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. **6**He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: **7**Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” **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.

**9**Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” **10**But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” **11**And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

**12**Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. **13**And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” And he said to him, “Here I am.” **14**So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. **15**And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” **16**“I am seeking my brothers,” he said. “Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” **17**And the man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

**18**They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. **19**They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. **20**Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams.” **21**But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” **22**And Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. **23**So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. **24**And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

**25**Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26**Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27**Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. **28**Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekelsof silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

# **Acts 7:9-13**

**9**“And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him **10**and rescued him out of all his afflictions and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him ruler over Egypt and over all his household. **11**Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food. **12**But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers on their first visit. **13**And on the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh.

**Genesis 45:1-15**

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2**And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. **3**And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

**4**So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5**And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6**For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7**And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8**So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9**Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. **10**You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11**There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.’ **12**And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. **13**You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” **14**Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. **15**And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Table Discussion Questions:

1. When did you last experience jealousy towards someone? How did it get resolved?
2. What are your unmet or threatened desires at this point in your life? Where are you disappointed or discontent? How might a relationship with Jesus meet that area of need?
3. Did you experience favoritism in your own family? Was it you or someone else? How did that reality impact your relationships?
4. How might you need *shalom,* or where might you need peace?
5. How is Jesus the Favorite Son of the Father? How does that reality impact your faith? Or help resolve any of the above questions?
6. Do you need to seek forgiveness, specifically as it relates to God? Or someone else? Be bold and say why.