

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The dangerous life of Joseph; Genesis 37:1

Message preached by Rev

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Joseph went through a life that led him only downwards. There was no indication that one day he would have a bed of roses. The Bible tells us that he was most hated of all his brother. Hated by none but his own brothers. While this happened Joseph held all to himself enduring troubles but never giving up on the Lord.

In all these he came out the winner, the provider, the prince of Egypt and the bread winner of his brothers who hated him. This could be you this morning. Let us look at just one point which led to the beginning of him being hated by his brothers;

Giving a true report.

One of the most striking ways Joseph was different was in the purity of his life. Every time you see Joseph, he is doing the right thing. This made him very different from his brothers. Purity, integrity and a desire to do the right things at all times marked the life of Joseph. This brought a nightmare of hate to Joseph's life.

Verse 2 brings us faced to face with the holy heart that beat within the chest of Joseph. What he saw his brothers doing must have shocked him deeply. This may have been Joseph's first exposure to the vile nature of his brothers. While at this passage we can't see what his brothers were doing but as we look forward to the dangers in his life we come to several verses which reveal these brothers as extremely evil.

The brothers of Joseph were an evil bunch. Among other things, they were guilty of ***murder, Gen. 34:25; incest, Gen. 35:33; hatred, Gen. 37:4; envy, Gen. 37:11; enslaving their brother, Gen. 37:38; lying, Gen. 37:31-33; and immorality, Gen. 38:12-18.***

Whatever it was that these men were doing, it shocked Joseph so much that he came and told Jacob. This event surely caused problems between Joseph and the rest of his brothers. It may have been the seed plot where the root of bitterness in the hearts of his brothers began to grow.

There are three lessons in this verse that we need to take to heart today.

1). Every one of our lives should be marked by purity. The God we serve is a holy God and He expects His people to be a holy people, **1 Pet. 1:16; 2 Cor. 6:17**. He wants us to stand separate from this world and its evil ways. He wants us to be different. We should be different in the way we act, talk, think, live, etc. Purity should be the hallmark quality of our lives!

2). It is not easy, but we should always strive to do the right thing in every situation. Our lives should be marked by integrity. There are plenty of people who are willing to do the wrong thing, especially if it makes life easier for them, but we should always do right in spite of the personal cost. It would have been easier for Joseph to just cover up what his brothers were doing. It would have been easier still to have joined them in their sin. But, he was determined to do the right thing, even if it cost him everything

3). One other lesson has to do with the proper use of the tongue. We should never be guilty of being a talebearer, **Lev. 19:16; Pro. 26:20-22**. If there is something you just must tell, be sure that you tell the right person. Jacob had a right to know what his sons were doing, so Joseph told him and him alone! He told his father in an effort to stop evil. A gossip always tells the wrong person. They are not trying to stop evil, but to spread it!

If you must tell something, always tell the truth. That is just what Joseph did. He did not embellish the facts; he simply told things as they were. Gossips love to add or subtract from the details as it suits their agenda.