

E2E: Part 23b

Genesis 37

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

November 20, 2022



1. Jacob sends Joseph to see how his brothers are doing in the valley of Shechem. They recognize Joseph as he approaches and make plans to kill him. (Genesis 37:15-20)
2. The brothers want to render Joseph's dreams void, because God is at work in his life, and they can see it.
3. Reuben pleads on Joseph's behalf for a less severe retaliation. If they let him die of starvation or exposure in a pit, no single brother will be guilty of murder. (1 Chronicles 5:1-2, Mathew 2:6)
4. Each of us is potentially capable of doing what Joseph's brothers did. We have stripped someone of their 'coat', ignoring evidence that God is at work. We are so consumed in our own agenda, we tend to miss God's activity in others' lives. (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:23)
5. Judah's suggestion to sell Joseph as a slave is still nefarious because anyone sold to Egypt as a slave will not be seen again and their plot will never be uncovered. But they forget –God is always watching and in control. (Psalm 76)
6. Reuben wasn't part of the plan to sell Joseph, his surprise is shown in his rage. (Genesis 37:29-32)
7. The hate wasn't just directed toward Joseph, but their father also. They checked out when it came to having an emotional attachment to the torment they were about to cause their father.
8. Joseph was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, but more importantly than Joseph being connected with one of the most powerful men in Egypt is that the Lord was with him. (Acts 7:0)
9. God is so great, He works out His purposes even when people are doing their worst. The cross is the greatest example of this. (Daniel 4:35, Acts 3:12-26)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever suffered at the hands of another? What effect did it have on you then - and perhaps even now? Have you sought to understand that experience in light of whom God has revealed Himself to be throughout His Word?

Have you ever caused suffering to another? What was your motive for doing so? Have you sought to understand and pursue God's will in bringing healing to that person?

In spite of the human motives behind the suffering, how might you see God's hand at work in or through either of these situations to bring about His purposes?

What questions are you still struggling with when it comes to God and human suffering? Please take the time to seek out a more mature Christian to help you.