

Heroes of the Bible: (Joseph) Shaped for Greatness

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – August 16, 2009

Genesis 45:1-8; 14-15

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! 5 And now, **do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. 7 But **God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.** 8 "So then, **it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. 9-13... 14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. 15 And **he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.**

FAVORED SON (Gen 37:1-15)

- Joseph was a favored son of Jacob (ornamental coat) from 11 brothers
- Arrogant Tattletale
- Joseph has 2 dreams (Stalks of grain; Sun, Moon & Stars)

FROM FAVORED SON TO HATED BROTHER (Gen 37:16-36)

- Brothers plot to kill him, but instead sell him into slavery at 17

FROM HATED BROTHER TO WRONGLY IMPRISONED (Gen 39:1-23)

- Joseph finds favor with Potiphar
- "The Lord was with Joseph"** (Gen. 39:2)
- Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph and has him thrown in prison
- "While Joseph was there in the prison, **the Lord was with him**" (Gen 39:20-21)

FROM WRONGLY IMPRISONED TO SERVANT OF THE KING (Gen 41)

- Joseph finds favor with prison keeper
- Interprets dreams for Pharaoh's Chief Cupbearer and Baker
- Forgotten by Cupbearer
- Remains in prison for 2 years
- Interprets dream for Pharaoh and placed in charge of Egypt at 30

FROM SERVANT OF THE KING TO SAVIOR OF HIS PEOPLE

(Gen 42-50)

- Famine strikes the land
- Jacob sends sons to Egypt for food
- Joseph reveals himself to brothers and forgives them
- Joseph is reunited with his father Jacob
- He receives his entire family into land of provision

What can we learn from Joseph?

- Joseph became **Better** not **Bitter** while God was "Shaping Him for Greatness"!!
- "The Lord is with you"** even in the midst of **troubles** and **hardships**.
- The Lord has a **purpose** for what you are going through today. He is "Shaping You for Greatness"!!

After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers were afraid that he would then take out his wrath upon them. Here is how he responded to them.

Genesis 50:19

Joseph said ... You intended to harm me, but **God intended it for good** to **accomplish what is now being done**, the saving of many lives.