

## ***God at Work, Part 1***

### ***Gen. 37***

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#### **Getting Started**

- ❖ Have you ever been on the receiving end of jealousy or bitterness from another person? How did this affect your life and what was the final outcome?

#### **Key Ideas for Discussion**

1. The Passive Father (v.1-3).
2. The Jealous Brothers (v.4-22).
3. The Suffering Son (v.23-36)

Takeaway Truth: Salvation for God's people requires the suffering of God's Son.

#### **Digging Deeper**

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read the sermon text and answer the following:
  - What was it that caused the jealous nature of Joseph's brothers? How were their actions an example of the adage, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".
  - Thinking through the sermon and the sermon text, do you agree or disagree that Jacob was passive in his parenting?
  - What lessons are there for fathers today in Jacob's treatment of Joseph and his brothers?
  - What was the reaction to Joseph when he shared his dreams? Do you believe he was right or wrong in sharing them with his family? Why?
  - Compare Genesis 37:18-20 to James 1:15. How could the brothers have stopped their desire before it led to sin? Later, Judah presents an alternative to killing Joseph that seems to benefit everybody (the brothers make money and Joseph gets to live) but was really selfishness and deceit. Sin always presents itself as a sweet alternative, but inevitably leads to regret (Job 12:12-17), why, then, do we fall for its lies?
  - How is God's presence evident in this chapter? What are some of the parallels between Joseph and Jesus that particularly resonated with you?
  - Why was it important for Joseph to first go through a deep and long period of suffering before ascending to a powerful position within Egypt? What would the likely outcome have been if Joseph had reached that zenith of power without the period of suffering?

#### **Apply It!**

- ❖ Did you experience partiality or passivity from your parents? If so, how did that affect you? Have you seen passivity or partiality in your role as a parent or as a child's authority figure?
- ❖ How do we, like Judah, justify sin in our own lives?
- ❖ What impacted you the most in the message?

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***Think About It!***

The more we perceive the **MERCY** of God, the less room there is to harbor **MALICE**.

NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

## WORSHIP RESOURCE

May 16, 2021 | Ascension of the Lord

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### WORSHIP SONGS

#### OPEN UP THE HEAVENS

*Words & Music by James McDonald, Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews, Stuart Garrard, Andi Rozier, 2012*

We've waited for this day, we're gathered in Your name,  
Calling out to You. Your glory like a fire awakening desire,  
Will burn our hearts with truth.

You're the reason we're here;  
You're the reason we're singing.

*Open up the heavens, we want to see You.  
Open up the floodgates, a mighty river flowing from Your heart, filling every part of our praise.*

Your presence in this place, Your glory on our face,  
We're looking to the sky. Descending like a cloud,  
You're standing with us now, Lord unveil our eyes.

Show us, show us Your glory.  
Show us, who us Your power.  
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord.

#### RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER

*Words and Music by Paxson Jeancake, 2010*

At the right hand of the Father sits the risen, ascended Son.  
In returning he is bearing scars of grace and scars of love.

*Open up the heavens, let us see just a glimpse of holy majesty.  
Like Stephen, to behold you with our eyes; risen One,  
ascended Lord on high. Risen One ascended Lord on high.*

At the right hand of the Father sits the holy Lamb of God.  
Death defeated, he interceded; pleads for us now from his throne.

At the right hand of the Father, standing now to welcome home,  
Sons and daughters, every martyr, not ashamed to be called his own.

#### ALLELUIA! SING TO JESUS

*Words by William Dix / Music by Rowland Pritchard, 1855*

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the scepter, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark, the songs of peaceful Zion, thunder like a mighty flood.  
Jesus, out of every nation has redeemed us by His blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how:  
Though the clouds from sight received Him when the forty days were  
o'er; shall our hearts forget His promise, "I am with you evermore."

Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, You on earth our food and stay;  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day.  
Intercessor, Friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me.  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.

### LIVING HOPE

*Words and Music by Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham, 2017*

How great the chasm that lay between us, how high the mountain I  
could not climb. In desperation I turned to heaven and spoke Your  
name into the night. Then through the darkness Your loving kindness  
tore through the shadows of my soul. The work is finished,  
the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such  
boundless grace? The God of ages stepped down from glory to wear  
my sin and bear my shame. The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The  
King of kings calls me His own. Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.  
Jesus Christ, my living hope.

*Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free! Hallelujah!  
Death has lost its grip on me. You have broken every chain;  
there's salvation in Your name. Jesus Christ, my living hope!*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise. Your buried body  
began to breathe. Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared the  
grave has no claim on me. Jesus Yours is the victory.

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### DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 136; Ezekiel 3:16-27; Ephesians 2:1-10; Matt. 10:24-42

MONDAY | Ps. 124; Ezekiel 4:1-17; Hebrews 6:1-12; Luke 9:51-62

TUESDAY | Ps. 66; Ezekiel 7:10-27; Hebrews 6:13-20; Luke 10:1-17

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 99; Ezekiel 11:14-25; Heb. 7:1-17; Luke 10:17-24

THURSDAY | Ps. 113; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Heb. 7:18-28; Luke 10:2-37

FRIDAY | Psalm 138; Ezekiel 34:17-31; Heb. 8:1-13; Luke 10:38-42

SATURDAY | Ps. 92; Ezekiel 43:1-12; Hebrews 9:1-14; Luke 11:14-23

### PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Father God, we pray that you would give us a spirit of wisdom and  
revelation as we come to know Christ, so that, with the eyes of our  
heart enlightened, we may know the hope to which you have called  
us, the riches of Christ's glorious inheritance among the saints, and  
the immeasurable greatness of Christ's power for us who believe. We  
thank you that you put this power to work in Christ when you raised  
him from the dead and seated him at your right hand in the heavenly  
places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and  
above every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the  
age to come. Amen.

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