

Remnant Life Church
10.09.22
Joseph
Pt 1
A Forced Confrontation
Gen 37:1-4

Jesus – the greatest to ever walk the earth

- God while at the same time living in the confines of being a man
- He lived a sinless life
 - Tempted every day
 - Not only in his face-to-face encounter with satan (**Matt 4:1-11**)
 - But in His everyday life
 - The moneychangers
 - Pharisees and Sadducees
 - His disciples
 - Tired
 - Hungry
 - Even had to go to the bathroom!
- Every day of my life I am trying to live more like Jesus
- I would encourage each and every one of you to do the same

Second on my list – Joseph

There are 2 prominent Josephs in the Bible

- One in the OT and one in the NT
- I say prominent because the name Joseph is used for 12 different men
- Among them:
 - A father of Igal, one of the spies sent into Canaan by Moses (**Num 13:7**)
 - Joseph of Arimathea – a member of the Sanhedrin (the ruling religious body of the Jews) the man who, along with Nicodemus, took Jesus off of the cross and place Him in his own tomb (**Matt 27:58-60; Mk 15:43-46**)
 - Jesus had an earthly half-brother named Joseph (**Luke 3:30**)
 - One of the 2 men considered to replace Judas Iscariot – known as Barsabbas or Justus (**Acts 1:23**)
 - Joseph was also the personal name of Barnabas, one of Paul's traveling companions (**Acts 4:36**)

The Joseph of the NT was the earthly father of Jesus and the husband of Mary the mother of Jesus

- He was a man of great integrity, righteousness, and kindness (**Matt 1:19**)
- Also, a man of obedience
- Mary and Joseph are set to be married when she is found to be pregnant – but not by Joseph (**Matt 1:18**)
 - He had many options available to him

- He could have dragged her before the entire town and shamed her for what it appeared she had done
 - He could have actually brought her before the town elders and called for her execution ([Lev 20:10](#))
 - But he did none of those things
 - His intention was to send her away quietly so that she would not have to suffer the indignation and ridicule of the village of Nazareth where she lived at the time ([Matt 1:19](#))
 - But he didn't even get to that
 - An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream ([Matt 1:20](#))
 - The angel told Joseph what was happening
 - Told him to marry her
 - How many of us could be that immediately obedient when every visual truth was telling us something different?
- Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus and the husband of Mary is a man we should emulate.

But that is not the Joseph I am referring to this morning – that man is Joseph of the book of Genesis

- His story occupies the final 14 chapters of Genesis
- Outside of Jesus, very few have that much of the Scripture devoted to one person
- His story begins in the 37th chapter, and I would like to look at the first 4 verses of Genesis 37

READ – [Genesis 37:1-4](#)

The time frame of this account begins about 10 years after Jacob and his family have settled in the land of Canaan

- Prior to this time, Jacob had been working for 14 years for his father-in-law Laban
 - Jacob had fallen in love with Rachel ([Gen 29:18](#))
 - Laban said if you work for me for 7 years you can marry her ([Gen 29:18](#))
 - But when that time was over he gave him Leah her older sister ([Gen 29:23](#))
 - Seven more years to get Rachel too ([Gen 29:27](#))
- He then eventually ends up heading back home
 - But he must first deal with encountering his older brother Esau
 - This is the man who Jacob had stolen his birthright from ([Gen 25:31-34](#); [Gen 27](#))
 - Esau was by all accounts a man of the outdoors, tough and rugged ([Gen 25:27](#))
 - Jacob was an indoor boy ([Gen 25:27](#))
 - This was not going to end well for Jacob
 - It all ends well for both Esau and Jacob ([Gen 33](#))
- Jacob and his growing family have now settled again and about 10 years has passed since they laid down roots.

Jacob is the father of 12 sons ([Gen 35:23-26](#))

- Reuben is the oldest
- Down to Benjamin, the youngest

- Joseph is number 11 in the birth order meaning he has no say in how things are happening around him

They are herdsmen or shepherds

- Joseph would also be moving into the family business when he was old enough
- At the time of the beginning of his story Joseph is a boy of 17
- But his father does not do him any favors

Joseph is the favorite

- This is because he was born to Rebecca, the woman the Jacob fell in love with
- Because of this, Jacob gave Joseph a very special gift
- It was the gift of a coat

In that day clothing said a lot about a person

- Remember in the NT the Pharisees would wear very ornate robes to emphasize their importance
- In the OT, God gave very specific instructions to Moses regarding the clothes the priests would wear
- When people were grieving, they would put on sack clothe so that everyone would know that they were in mourning for some reason
- And when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that He will be clothed in robes radiating with His glory, His power, and His splendor!
- And so, the coat that Jacob gave to 11th son, spoke volumes to the people who saw it – especially to his 10 older brothers

We have all grown up understanding that the coat was beautiful because it was of many colors

- Yeah...about that...
- It is highly unlikely that the coat was made of different colors
 - Its not impossible but unlikely
 - **Gen 37:3** says that it was a richly ornamented robe
 - In the original language the word for the garment Jacob gave his son is *pas*
 - There is nothing in the original language that specifies that it is comprised of many colors
 - The closest to confirming that thinking are Egyptian paintings from that period that depict travelers from the region of Canaan wearing long-sleeved, embroidered garments with a fringed scarf wrapped diagonally from their waist to the knee
 - The colors could easily have been added at the artists discretion
 - It is a long coat that came to the palm of Joseph's hands and the soles of his feet
 - This is nothing like his brothers would have worn
 - This coat symbolized Joseph's new position in the family
 - It was a coat of status, not only favor
 - By wearing this coat, it was an indication that he was now management, not labor

- And this is why his brothers so intensely hated him
 - It not only threw their fathers favor for him in their faces
 - But it elevated Joseph over them, even the oldest Ruben
 - This is also interesting to note since it was Ruben who tried to save his little brother from being killed
- This conflict between his brothers and Joseph was created by a doting father

But Joseph is not yet the man of wisdom that will elevate him to a position of great world power

- Joseph is going to have two dreams
- And he is going to (rather unwisely) share them with his brothers and father
- And that will only confirm in his brother's minds that their little brother needs to go