

Genesis 36-37:11 – Edomites and Joseph

God has a Plan

Section 1: 36:8, 43 – The Edomites and God's Word Fulfilled

⁸*So Esau (that is, Edom) lived in the mountains of Seir.*

⁴³*These are Edom's chiefs, according to their settlements in the land they possessed. Esau was father of the Edomites.*

The Edomites: Genesis 25:23 fulfilled. Genesis 27:38-40 realized.

How much time do you spend considering what you are passing onto the next generation? We have learned through Genesis that your characteristics and actions most certainly, not maybe, will directly impact the next generation. We are finally seeing the full effect of Esau's character and actions on the next generation. He is the father of the Edomites. The Edomites are enemies of the people of God. Esau started down a path that his sons, grandsons, great grandsons, great-great grandsons and so forth have followed him down.

- Psalm 137:7; 2 Chronicles 28:17; 2 Chronicles 21:9; 2 Samuel 8:13-14

Don't forget that who you are and what you do actually makes a difference. Deuteronomy 5:8-10

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Have you ever considered how your character and actions will directly impact future generations?
- ❖ What are the characteristics and actions we want to pass on to the next generation?
- ❖ How are you shaping and forming your life to make sure you pass on the right characteristics and actions to the next generation?

Section 2: 37:1-4

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. ²These are the family records of Jacob.

At seventeen years of age, Joseph tended sheep with his brothers. The young man was working with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought a bad report about them to their father.

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph was a son born to him in his old age, and he made a long-sleeved robe for him. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not bring themselves to speak peaceably to him.

There are a couple of very important observations we need to make about Joseph before we get into his story too far. (1) Israel loved Joseph the most. (2) Joseph's robe became a symbol of his father's favoritism.

Two thoughts about self-control and this passage. We need to be self-controlled in the good times and the bad.

- 1) Joseph's brothers needed to control their emotions because their emotions are about to lead them into committing an ungodly action.
- 2) Joseph needed self-control as well.

I believe we will see Joseph and his brothers learn this lesson by the end of the story. Joseph is self-controlled by showing grace and the brothers are self-controlled by repenting.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How often are you tempted to allow circumstances to be the primary determining factor as to how you treat others?
- ❖ How relationship with God directly impacts our relationships with others. Do you live like that statement is true?

Section 3: 37:5-11

⁵ Then Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves of grain in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood up, and your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ "Are you really going to reign over us?" his brothers asked him. "Are you really going to rule us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream and what he had said. ⁹ Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ He told his father and brothers, and his father rebuked him. "What kind of dream is this that you have had?" he said. "Am I and your mother and your brothers really going to come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

We have arrived at the major event that was the straw that broke the camel's back. Joseph has had 2 dreams that produced 1 emotional reaction. The two dreams told the same story...Joseph will be leading the family. Why is that so significant? We must remember that the culture demanded that the first-born son be given all the rights. Therefore, at best Joseph was 6th in line for the right to lead the family.

So, let's look at the direct impact of each dream.

- 1) Joseph's first dream was directly aimed at his brothers. The dream is clear...Joseph will lead his brothers and they will serve him. The result? They hated him all the more.
- 2) Joseph's second dream added his father and mother. This time Israel is concerned about his son thinking he's greater and his brothers. The result? We can add jealousy on top of the hate. Yet, Israel understood that this was significant. He kept the matter in his mind.
 - Why did Israel keep the matter in mind? I believe it's because when you've experienced God enough...you recognize when He's at work again. The dreams were very similar to the story of Jacob and Esau...the older serving the younger.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Do you ever find yourself questioning God's plans?
- ❖ How do we learn to walk by faith and not by sight?
- ❖ Why is it important for us to be reminded of the power of the gospel?