



Calvary of Albuquerque

Genesis 38-39 - Genesis 38:9-39:23

From the Series, Genesis

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

The contrast between Joseph and his brothers is great. Nothing bad is recorded about Joseph, but his brothers' lives are a mess. Joseph was faithful; his brothers were failures. Joseph had rock solid integrity; his brothers practiced wretched morality. Yet in the midst of it all, the Holy Spirit worked behind the scenes, using the most unlikely people to bring the Messiah into the world.

DETAILED NOTES

I. Introduction

- A. Joseph was 17 years old when the Lord began to speak to him in dreams
 - 1. He was excited and naive
 - 2. His brothers hated him
 - 3. His second dream gets his father's attention
- B. Lord will raise Joseph up to be the second in command, under Pharaoh over Egypt
- C. Joseph sold to Midianite traders
- D. Younger people
 - 1. The Lord often calls the young to His work
 - a. Tender age receptive and impressionable
 - b. Samuel
 - i. Parents took him to minister at very early age - 1 Samuel 2:18
 - ii. The Lord called him, "Samuel, Samuel" 1 Samuel 3
 - c. Jeremiah - Jeremiah 1:5-10
 - d. Daniel was a teen when taken captive
 - e. Timothy - 1 Timothy 4:12
 - f. The young give the Lord the best years of their life
 - g. Most who come to faith do so in their teenage years
 - h. Coming to faith:
 - i. Age 25 1 in 5,000
 - ii. Age 35 1 in 25,000
 - iii. Age 45 1 in 60,000
 - iv. Age 55 1 in 125,000
 - i. Doesn't matter what age you come, most important that you come

II. Judah - Genesis 38

- A. Reasons
 - 1. Contrast between Joseph and his brothers
 - 2. Continuance of the lineage of Christ-Ruth; Matthew 1
- B. The Bible shows failures plainly
 - 1. Real people; some are bad
 - 2. Nothing bad recorded about Joseph
- C. Judah married a Canaanite: Shua
- D. Had three sons: Er, Onan, Shelah
 - 1. Er died because he was wicked in the sight of the Lord; the Lord killed him vs. 6
 - 2. Onan vs 9
 - a. Misapplied to birth control
 - b. Not an issue of family planning; an issue of family plotting
 - c. He was supposed to provide an heir so that the inheritance and name would be preserved
 - d. Onan practiced coitus interruptus
 - i. "When" is better translated "whenever"; regular practice
 - ii. Sexual gratification without parental responsibility
 - iii. Hated his brother; didn't want him to have an heir
 - e. Onan died
- E. Judah and Tamar
 - 1. Judah sent Tamar home
 - a. Didn't want a third son to die with her
 - b. End of his family line
 - c. "When son gets older" was an excuse; he had no intention of fulfilling the promise
 - 2. Judah's wife died; he visited a pagan friend
 - 3. Tamar disguised herself as a temple prostitute



- a. Common Canaanite worship; how they got converts
 - b. She knew Judah's character
 - c. Keep the lineage of the family
 - 4. Judah came to her and promised to pay a goat
 - 5. Tamar took a pledge from him: signet, cord, staff
 - 6. Canaanite culture
 - a. Mesopotamian worship culture all about fertility
 - b. Prostitutes were emblematic of Ishtar
 - c. Men would go to prostitutes before planting fields or mating animals to cause abundance
 - 7. 3 months later Tamar shows up pregnant
 - a. Amazing how bad our sin looks on someone else
 - b. Burn her!
 - c. Reminiscent of David when confronted by Nathan about Bathsheba
 - 8. Tamar reveals the father of the child
 - 9. Tamar gives birth to twins: Perez and Zerah
 - F. Genealogy of Jesus Christ-Matthew 1
 - 1. To Jews, genealogy is a high priority
 - 2. Perez is an illegitimate son
 - 3. Women mentioned
 - 4. Most unlikely people
 - 5. Those who fail are in good company
- III. The Lord is developing Joseph's faith - Genesis 39
- A. The Lord often uses pain to cause faith to grow
 - B. Joseph believed in God despite his circumstances
 - C. Joseph sold as a slave
 - 1. Bought by Potiphar
 - 2. Joseph is successful, full of joy, great testimony
 - D. Whatever Joseph touches, the Lord blesses
 - E. Joseph is determined to be faithful and to give a faithful testimony for God's glory
 - F. Joseph raises the ire and interest of Satan
 - 1. The enemy has studied you; knows your strengths and weaknesses
 - 2. The enemy waits for the opportunity - Luke 4:13
 - G. Potiphar totally trusted Joseph
 - H. Potiphar's wife was also impressed
 - I. Joseph refused her advances
 - 1. Ethical Conviction
 - 2. Spiritual Devotion - Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 8:13
 - a. He had an awesome awareness of God
 - b. Moses looked "this way and that" and not up when he killed the Egyptian - Genesis 2:12
 - 3. Continual Refutation
 - a. Our eyes and ears are like gates to a city; keep them closed to keep bad things out
 - b. Refused to even be with her
 - J. She accused Joseph of trying to rape her
 - K. Potiphar's anger was aroused
 - 1. Perhaps not at Joseph
 - 2. Rape a capital offense
 - 3. He knows his wife
 - 4. He knows Joseph
 - L. Joseph thrown into prison
 - M. But the Lord was with Joseph

Figures Referenced: Dwight L. Moody, Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon

Publications Referenced: "The Screwtape Letters," by C. S. Lewis; "Pilgrim's Progress," by John Bunyan

Cross References: Genesis 2:12; Ruth; 1 Samuel 2:18; 1 Samuel 3; Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 8:13; Jeremiah 1:5-10; Matthew 1; Luke 4:13; 1 Timothy 4:12