

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

STRENGTH OUT OF SORROW

GENESIS 37

Text: Genesis 37:1-4

Genesis 37:1-4

¹ And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. ² These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. ⁴ And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Introduction:

We first read of Joseph here in Genesis 37, however his story really begins seventeen years before these statements were made.

When Joseph was young, God allowed him to go through things which strengthened him and prepared him to be the man God desired for him to be.

Joseph had an amazing heritage.

He was the son of Jacob, who was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham.

His grandfather Isaac was still alive when Joseph was a boy.

In Genesis chapter thirty-five, we read about three sorrowful events that no doubt greatly affected Joseph's life.

In verse 8 we read:

Genesis 35:8

8 But Deborah Rebekah's nurse died, and she was buried beneath Bethel under an oak: and the name of it was called Allonbachuth.

She was a beloved person in Joseph's life.

In verse 19 we read of his mother's death:

Genesis 35:19

¹⁹ And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.

This was also a time of great sorrow.

Then in verse 29 we read of his grandfather's death:

Genesis 35:29

29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Why did God allow such sorrow to come into young Joseph's life?

God used sorrow to build Joseph in to man He desired for him to be.

Note:

Sermon Content:

1. THE STRENGTH THAT CAME OUT OF SORROW CAUSED JOSEPH TO PLACE THE PROPER EMPHASIS ON LIFE

When someone close to us dies, it causes us to think of the opportunities that are ours just to be alive.

Because of the death of his loved ones, Joseph had occasion as a young man to place the proper emphasis on life and consider the preciousness and value of life.

We are living in a day where many devalue life.

As a young man Joseph saw how wonderful and grand it was to be alive.

Understand it is a blessing from God that we are alive today.

It is the blessings of God that we are able to function as we live.

Note;

Life is too wonderful to waste.

Understand that this Sorrow Caused Joseph to Place the Proper Emphasis on Life.

Note also:

2. THE STRENGTH THAT CAME OUT OF SORROW CAUSED JOSEPH TO PLACE THE PROPER EMPHASIS ON HIS LOVED ONES

When someone we love dies, most of the time we think of something we would have liked to have done for that loved one or with that loved one.

As Joseph faced the deaths of Deborah, his grandfather and even his own mother Rachael, he had opportunity to think about how precious and wonderful they were to him.

Understand:

God sometime allows trouble and heartache to show us how important our families truly are.

God can speak to us through sorrow to place the proper emphasis on our loved ones.

If you ever intend to do anything to express the love you have for your family members you should do it now.

If there are family members that you need to make something right with you should do it now.

We cannot expect God's blessing in our lives without our willingness to forgive those who may have hurt or offended us.

God often brings sorrow at time to teach us how to love our loved ones more deeply.

This sorrow cause Joseph to place the proper emphasis on Life and his Loved Ones but also and more importantly because this will help us place the emphasis on the previous two things is:

3. THE STRENGTH THAT CAME OUT OF SORROW CAUSED JOSEPH TO PLACE THE PROPER EMPHASIS ON THE LORD

God allows things to come into our live that causes us to place the proper emphasis on the Lord, and sometimes those things are sorrowful.

When Joseph saw his loved ones die, he had opportunity to think about people dying and standing before the Lord.

He thought of God and learned to place the proper emphasis on the Lord.

As we see Joseph being sold into slavery and taken to Egypt, placed in prison, remember as a young man he learned to keep his eyes on the Lord.

God sustained him in the darkest hours.

The sorrow that God allowed to enter into Joseph's life opened his heart and allowed God to speak to him about place the priority on the Lord.

Understand:

Sorrow will either drive us to the Lord or drive us from the Lord.

Close:

Understand God does use sorrow, trouble and heartache to help us see that we must and can trust Him.

He promises us in Matthew 11:28:

Matthew 11:28

²⁸ Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.