

# A FAMILY BREAKUP

## GENESIS 37

Text:

Introduction:

The family of Jacob has come to a point in their lives and in their relationships one with another that they have been shaken up. The shakeup came because of the love that Jacob had for his son Joseph, the son of the old age; the gift that he gave him; the coat of many colors, and the dreams Joseph dreamed.

This text reveals just how deep and destructive a family disagreement can be. The consequences are staggering. This family is literally torn apart, and the root cause is jealousy. Nothing is sadder than a family being broken apart.

There are two major areas to consider in a “Family Breakup” : the conspiracy (vss. 18-28) and the cover up (vss. 31-36)

### 1. The Conspiracy That Caused the Breakup

A. The conspiracy was the result of family jealousy.

Remember Joseph's dream, remember the coat of many colors, remember the reason they were jealous of Joseph. Jacob had a special love for Joseph that motivated him to make a coat of many colors, causing the brothers to become jealous.

B. The conspiracy was against an innocent person.

What one thing did Joseph do that would cause his brothers to hate him so intensely? I know you are going to say, "He was the favorite son." That wasn't his fault.

C. The conspiracy was an act of cowardice.

The odds were ten to one. Those were difficult odds to be up against.

D. The conspiracy included a plot to murder an innocent man.

(Gen 37:20 KJV) "Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams."

E. The Conspiracy was changed from a plot to murder Joseph to a plan to abandon hi to die of starvation.

F. The conspiracy ended in a money making scheme.

(Gen 37:26 KJV) "And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?"

Isn't amazing what people will do for money! We occasionally read of a mother who sells her baby for money. The love of money, not money itself is the root of all evil.

## 2. The Cover-up of the Crime

Now we come to the second major part, the cover-up of a crime, a crime against an innocent man. Two things about the cover-up:

A. It was a deliberate and dastardly deed.

This deed was designed to deceive their father. They decided to kill an innocent animal, dip the coat in blood, take it back to their father and say, "This we found. Lo, is this thy son's coat.

(Gen 37:32 KJV) "And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no."

1. Notice the wording. Not our brothers coat, but rather thy sons.

B. The cover-up broke the heart of an aging father.

(Gen 37:34 KJV) "And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days."

Many a man has gone down to his grave mourning the loss of a son.

3. To Big A Price To Pay.

A. The results of family breakups.

1. Hurtful scares

2. Broken hearts

3. Estranged feelings

4. Steps to Prevent a Family Breakup

Remember family togetherness family separateness.

Each of the following five things is very important to prevent a family breakup.

A. Cultivate dialogue among family members.

1. Communication is very important

B. Conquer envy before it influences your behavior.

1. Jealous thoughts lead to wicked conduct.

2. What you think most of the time you do.

C. Control anger before it manifests itself in foul play.

D. Consider the feelings of others before expressing your own.

(Rom 12:10 KJV) "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"

E. Concentrate on the good and cancel out the bad.

Close: We need to wake up before there is a breakup.