**Betrayed!**

God Meant it For Good - A Study of the Life of Joseph - Genesis 37:12-36

**1)** A fathers **request** can be hard to follow v 12-17.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. 13And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am." 14So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem. 15And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" 16"I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." 17And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

**2)** A brother’s **resentment** can be hard to flee v 18-25

They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. 19They said to one another: Here comes this dreamer. 20Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams. 21But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying: Let us not take his life. 22And Reuben said to them: Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him--that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father. 23So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore. 24And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. 25Then they sat down to eat.

[ Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. (32) Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.]

**3)** A guilt **ridden** conscience can leave us hardened & heartless v 25-32. ..

And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him. 28Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt. 29When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes 30and returned to his brothers and said: The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go? 31Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said: This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not.

**4)** A fathers **remorse** (sowing & reaping – yet there is Gods providence) v 33-36.

And he identified it and said: It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces. 34Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. 35All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said: No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36Meanwhile the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.