

Joseph - Finding Who We Are In Christ

Sunday, November 1, 2020

I would like to take a journey through the life of Joseph and allow his life to show us who we are in Christ and how we can walk in that identity.

Someone has said... *"Our true identity is found when we stop being 'who we are' and start being who we were created to be."*

We've been talking a lot about what we believe and how we can grow. Now I want to help us understand who we are in Christ and how we can grow into the person we were meant to be

Genesis 37:1-11

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

2 This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

3 Now **Israel loved Joseph** more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and **he made an ornate robe for him.** **4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. **6** He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: **7** We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" **11** His brothers were jealous of him, **but his father kept the matter in mind.**

Joseph's NAME - "*he will add*"... the first thing we can learn about our identity in Christ comes from Joseph's name.

It means "*He Will Add.*" Joseph was given that name by his mother Rachel because she desperately wanted to have children. She had struggled for a long time

Genesis 30:22-24

22 Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. **23** She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, "God has taken away my disgrace." **24** She named him Joseph, and said, "May the Lord add to me another son."

Just as Joseph was wanted by his mother, you are wanted by God

When she gave him his name she said "*may the lord add to me another son*"

But the name has much more significance than that. Prophetically she was declaring a truth not only about Joseph but about all of us. As the 11th son some might surmise that he wouldn't really add anything to the family. After all Jacob already had 10 sons. But as we know, he added a lot. He played a key role in the survival of the Israelites. He added a lot to God's story. And so do you. God's whole reason for creating you is because you will add

Now, you can choose what you will add because God has given you free will. Will it be good, or will it be bad? But know that God's plan for you in Christ is to add to His Kingdom, add to His Glory, add to His ongoing story of creation and redemption

Say: "I AM WANTED BY GOD"

Say: "I WILL ADD"

Why do you think the devil is so pleased with how well his tool of abortion works, with an average of 125,000 abortions every day in this world? Because he knows that they would add to the God's Kingdom.

You need to wake up every day knowing that you are wanted by God. You add value to His kingdom.

Joseph's COAT - Gods love and favor

Genesis 37:3

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.

The second thing that the life of Joseph teaches us about who we are in Christ, is found in the Coat that was made for him by his father. Some people look at Joseph's coat in the wrong way. They see it as a sign that he was spoiled and got everything he wanted. But I want you to see it for what it was and what it represents in our lives.

The coat was a physical expression of his father's love and favor. God too, has given us his love and his favor in the physical expression of His love through Jesus Christ, His son.

Isaiah 43:1, 4a

43 But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you,

God loves us unconditionally, and unimaginably. After we found out we were pregnant with our second child, I asked one of the Board Members of our church a question about loving children. He and his wife had become good friends and had taken care of us as young pastors who had come to their church and had our first child and were now about ready to give birth to our second. They had twins and another son. I simply wanted to know if as a father he had as much love for all of his children. He assured me that you love each of them with all of your heart. What I have learned is that you grow in your capacity to love. And if we can grow in our capacity how much more can an eternal omnipotent God expand his capacity to love each and every one of his creations with all His heart.

We are ALL His favorite! The lie of the enemy and the root cause of racism of all forms is the thought that there are some people who are more favored than others. We will talk about this more next week when we look deeper at the brother's actions towards Joseph. But God has poured out His love and favor on all of us with equal abandon.

1 John 3:1-2

3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Exodus 19:5 calls Israel {and in Christ all of us} a “...**treasured possession** out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine.”

Deuteronomy 7:6 says... “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His prized possession, above all peoples on the face of the earth.”

Pray this... *"God help me to see how much you love me."*

Joseph's DREAMS - tells us that God has a plan for our lives and wants to fill us with His dreams (purposes)

Genesis 37:5-11

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. **6** He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: **7** We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

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These were incredible dreams... These were God dreams... And yes, maybe Joseph didn't handle it in the best possible way. But that doesn't change the fact that God put these dreams in Joseph's heart and that God was showing him the plans that he had for his life. Again, some will say Joseph was spoiled, but I say you are missing the point.

I say, he was a boy, he was young and probably acted immaturely. He got excited about the dreams that God put in his heart (wouldn't you) and didn't know how to go about sharing them, but he wanted to talk about them

I say that he made mistakes and so will we

I say that he needed to grow and learn and be shaped - and he did - into a great man in the kingdom of God.

I say that we need to learn and grow and be shaped too and we will as we seek to understand and take hold of who we are in Christ Jesus and as we understand that God has incredible plans and purposes for us.

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

2 Timothy 1:9

9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

I want you to pray... *"God fill me with YOUR dreams for my life... Show me what they are..."*

Jacob "born to him in his old age" Age - Even in our old age God wants to bless us and fulfill the dreams He has put in our hearts

Genesis 37:3

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because **he had been born to him in his old age**;

11 His brothers were jealous of him, **but his father kept the matter in mind.**

I want to tell you today, that it doesn't matter how old you are, God has plans for you. And it doesn't matter how long you have been waiting, you can't give up on the dreams God has put in your heart.

Joseph life reminds us that God has dreams, plans, and promises for us at every stage of our lives. Jacob kept it in mind because he knew how God worked. God had given him dreams and visions many times in his life. Dreams that came true. Dreams that no one else would believe, but Jacob knew they were real. Jacob kept it in mind because he knew that Joseph, himself, was

an answer to a dream. A dream that Rachel had. A dream that Jacob had. If he were to discount Joseph's dreams, he would have to discount his own dream. Like the encounter he had when he wrestled with God at Peniel.

Keep it in mind. Believe what God has said. Hold on to the things that God has spoken to your heart. The dreams and visions he has planted in you.

Psalm 57:2 (ESV)

2 I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

Psalm 138:8 (ESV)

8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Declare this today... "I will not give up! God will fulfill His purpose for me. O' God, finish what you started."

Philippians 1:6

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.