

Resentment can Destroy You!

#3110 0211 24A This study: **Genesis 37:1-11** wds1690

To have *eternal living* in Paradise we must have an *eternal forgiving* heart on earth. With the help God promises to give us, we can be free of *resentment, anger, hostility, and revenge*—all very *destructive* attitudes that can remain hidden in our heart.

The tough things Joseph had to deal with—and the harsh treatment he got from his own family—reminds us that resentment, anger, and jealousy will not only harm *others*, but it can destroy *us* if not dealt with scripturally.

Any *resentment* or *jealousy* that is in our heart must be *revealed* to us, and then steps taken to *correct* it—by *repenting, asking* for God’s help, and *trusting* Him to put a forgiving heart in us toward everyone.

Joseph’s *example* is so important that God had his *story* take up more space in Genesis than the *Creation* account; the life of *Abraham*; the global *Flood*, and the *Tower of Babel* combined. Joseph’s *responses* to wrongs are *valuable* examples for everyone today.

Genesis 37:1 AV “*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.*”

These four sons had done wicked things—they murdered Shechem and every male in the city to avenge the wrong done to their sister Dinah.

It is no surprise that Joseph brings back an evil report of them. Bilhah had *Dan* and *Naphtali*; while Zilpah had *Gad* and *Asher*.

These brothers were extremely *jealous* of Joseph—no doubt from pride, since *their* mothers were handmaids, but *Joseph’s* was not.

Because of their evil ways, Joseph avoided their company. He would not drink alcohol with them; he would not take part in their immoral activities; and he kept his distance if they acted in ways that would disgrace their *father*, Jacob.

Joseph was not sinless because Romans 3:23 AV “*All have sinned,*” but the Bible does not mention any *specific* sin. The story of Joseph takes up one-fourth of Genesis and still no mention of any sins.

Even though a young man and dealing with peer-pressure as well as with various temptations, God enabled him to live a *righteous* life when surrounded by *unrighteous* people.

Joseph stood for what was *right* when he was with others who were doing *wrong*.

Genesis 37:3 AV “*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.*”

Favoritism in the *family* caused many problems in the *home*. Jacob should have learned from his father showing favoritism to his brother Esau—how damaging that can *be* in a family.

Having favorites is not good as—AV Acts 10:34 “*God is no respecter of persons [shows no partiality NKJV; no favoritism NIV],*” so neither should we!

Still, Jacob gives him this *coat of many colors*—a full-length robe with long sleeves—representing the authority of a *prince*.

Also, the long sleeves provided pockets in which the wearer would place documents or writing materials.

This coat meant that Jacob had appointed Joseph to a position of authority over his *older* brothers. Joseph would affectively be their *boss* even though only seventeen and the 11th of twelve sons.

That 1st place position was for Ruben the *first-born*—but he knew *why* it was not given to him—he had been immoral with Bilhah Genesis 35:22, which forfeited his first-born rights Genesis 49:3-4. The first-born was not always given birthright privileges.

Next in line was Simeon or Levi, but both were involved in the murder of Shechem to avenge Dinah. Judah was next in age, but the Bible mentions some serious sin in *his* life.

We can reason that God would *not* have excluded these older sons *permanently* from their inheritance rights, if there had been a genuine *repentance* on their part, but there is no record of them doing that.

There is also the matter of being spiritually *prepared* by God—who would appoint only the *right* individuals to positions of spiritual leadership as eternal souls are involved.

Joseph *could* be considered Jacob’s firstborn since Rachel was his first *chosen* wife.

Hagar had Ishmael before *Sarah* had Isaac, but Ishmael did not receive firstborn rights. Romans 9:13 AV “*As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated*” Malachi 1:2-3. Jacob was just following God’s will in the matter.

Hatred, anger, or jealousy are grievous sins—sins that must be *confessed, repented* of, and with God’s help *forsaken*. Such attitudes *cannot* stay in our heart—they *must* be removed, or they will eventually *destroy* us!

We have to be *honest* with God and *admit* such sins—as He already *knows* our heart. If there is any resentment in us toward *anyone* for any *reason*, it must be *admitted, confessed, and removed*. We *must* humbly pray AV Luke 18:13 “*God be merciful to me a sinner.*”

Jesus links anger and hatred with murder. AV Matthew 5:22 “*I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*”

It is a *sin* to call someone a *fool*; or *worthless*; or *good-for-nothing*. AV 1 John 4:20 “*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*” Love for *others* is evidence of love for *God* in our heart.

AV Genesis 37:5-7 “*And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.*”

6 *And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:*

7 *For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.*”

The *sheaves* predict a *famine* in Egypt and also refers to Joseph’s *plan* to save Egypt, the Israelites, and the known world from starvation. Right away, the resentment and jealousy of these brothers are revealed.

AV Genesis 37:8 “*And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.*”

They cannot hide their dislike and jealousy, and their hatred *increases* as he continues to relate the dreams he had.

AV Genesis 37:9 “*And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.*”

10 “*And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?*”

11 *And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.*”

Jealousy is being upset when someone *else* receives a blessing; *Envy* is wanting the *blessing* they received.

Envy and jealousy can arise anywhere and at any time. Someone will be liked *more* than we are; *promoted* ahead of us; or receive a *higher wage* than we do.

Satan is always right there to cause these destructive attitudes in us if we are not alert to his evil plans.

Jealousy, anger, and resentment are as serious as *hatred* and *murder*, because they keep us *out* of the kingdom.

Those sins *must* be confessed and repented of as soon as we are aware of them. AV Hebrews 12:15 “*Lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*”

Joseph’s brothers did not deal with jealousy in a scriptural way, so it escalated to *envy* and

hatred—which came about by focusing only on *self* instead of focusing only on *God*!

Envy leaves God *out* of the picture when He is to be the *center* of it.

Cain slew his brother and Saul tried to murder David—because of *jealousy*. In these brothers, envy is allowed to escalate until it brings *disastrous* results.

To have *victory* over jealousy and envy is to first *admit* them—*thanking* God for His many *blessings* we have already received and knowing that He will give us many *more* as we continue in faith to trust Him.

Rejoicing with anyone God has blessed is what we *should* do—it is our *duty* Luke 17:10.

We could never *repay* God for what He has *done* for us—making a sacrifice on the cross and thereby *freeing* us from jealousy and giving *victory* over other wrong attitudes.

All anger, resentment, and jealousy are to be placed before God in prayer. All three of them are from the *old* sin nature Galatians 5:19-21 but Jesus gives us a *new* nature—“*Fruits of the Spirit*”—22-23 “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and] self-control.*”

The Holy Spirit will give us that divine nature if we *ask* for His help and follow through in His power.

Whenever we are tempted with envy, jealousy, or resentment, we just ask God in prayer to *free* us from those attitudes—Jesus *paid* for that freedom—and He will *replace* them with *love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness*—all leading to eternal life!



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