

Wrong Attitudes Revealed!

#3112 0218 24A Genesis 37:12-24 wds1703

Asking God to reveal wrong attitudes in our heart is an on-going request. If we are committed to obeying God's Word and doing His will in our life, as Joseph certainly was, then we need to ask God to reveal any wrong attitudes that may lie hidden in our heart.

God was in control of Joseph's life, as he had given his life to God early on. Everyone faces some type of persecution; unfair treatment; personal offenses and insults—which are valuable learning lessons—if we will meet them according to God's Word.

NKJV **Genesis 37:12** *Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.*

13 *And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So he said to him, "Here I am."*

14 *Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem."*

The ten brothers went back to tending flocks for their father, Jacob—whose name God had changed NKJV **Genesis 32:28** *"Your name shall*

no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

Joseph obeys his father's wishes and says, *"Here I am"* send me. Jacob wants to know how these sons are doing so he sends Joseph to bring back a report.

Genesis 37:15 *"Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"*

16 *So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."*

The various families may have been well known in the area, so the man would recognize Joseph and know of the brothers. Joseph is respectful and says *"Please"* before asking.

Genesis 37:17 *"And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan."*

Joseph would know that his brothers would not be glad to see him, nor would they give him any consideration—which the next verses confirm.

Genesis 37:18 *"Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him.*

19 *Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming!*

20 *"Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"*

At this point, the wicked attitude these brothers had in their heart is clearly revealed. They resent having to even see Joseph, and they plot evil against him before he tells them why he came.

This same wicked attitude is seen in King Saul, who NIV **1 Samuel 19:1** *"Told his son*

Jonathan and all the attendants to kill David. But Jonathan was very fond of David."

In this situation of the brothers plotting to harm Joseph, one of the brothers, Reuben, wants to deal with the situation with some compassion.

Wrong attitudes toward someone are common in the Bible, unfortunately, and seen more and more in the world today.

That same Satan-inspired attitude plotted against our Lord and Savior. NKJV **Matthew 27:1** *"When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death."*

These unscriptural attitudes in the brothers, in King Saul, and in the chief priests show how resentment, anger, and bitterness can lie deep within the heart and which will come to the surface whenever we see the person or think about why we dislike them—all such attitudes come from the devil who is a destroyer of *souls*.

The warning about going along with or agreeing to such wrong actions against another is

NKJV **Proverbs 1:10** *"My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause"—and then advising us *not* to agree to any of their evil intentions, but rather to *separate* ourselves from all fellowship with anyone who is being controlled by the devil.*

Joseph continues to meet with unfair treatment; unprovoked insults; and just plain wrongs done to him by these resentful brothers.

This persecution he is receiving from his own family, however, can be valuable learning lessons—if he is willing with God's help to meet these brothers in a scriptural way.

Joseph is not aware of the evil they are planning against him, and it seems he does not realize how serious their anger toward him really is.

Joseph just continues to obey the father's wishes and follows through with what his father asked him to do.

Genesis 37:21 “*But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him."*”

22 *And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"—that he might deliver [rescue NIV] him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.”*

Before these brothers could plan any further harm to Joseph and to even resort to murder, Reuben shows compassion and suggests a better way to deal with the anger and resentment his brothers had toward Joseph.

Reuben suggests that they not physically harm their brother, but instead to put him in a pit (dry well)—thinking they would agree to that, and this would give him (Reuben) the opportunity to rescue Joseph later when his brothers were not there.

Reuben is also showing compassion toward their father Jacob who truly loves Joseph.

Genesis 37:23 “*So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.*”

24 *Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.”*

The anger and bitterness of these brothers is revealed, as they do not want to see Joseph or even talk with him. It says when “*they saw him afar off, even before he came near them,*” these brothers plotted his murder, and showing not a shred of compassion or love for their own blood-brother.

It was deep-seated resentment (that they were obviously not aware of)—they just wanted revenge for what they thought was a wrong done

to them by the father—Joseph being a favorite and being shown preferential treatment—as well as the gift of a prince's robe of many colors that made Joseph their boss.

Things to learn from the wrong attitudes Joseph had to deal with—and his response to them, are valuable for us today.

Joseph had to meet many types of harsh and wrong treatment from his own family. His reactions to persecution can be recalled and we can then follow that example whenever we face some type of unjust treatment.

Joseph had to meet all this harsh treatment because God was preparing him for eternity.

God is doing His best to *warn* us; to *teach* us; and to *prepare* us for His kingdom as well!

God will do the same for anyone who will follow His training program—and it starts by our dealing with unfair treatment in a scriptural way.

There is much spiritual work to be done in our heart because we began life filled to the brim with human plans, worldly thoughts, and unscriptural attitudes.

We generally think that any type of self-made plans, goals, and ambitions are not that harmful, but they *are!*

We must allow God to bring us *away* from all such wrong attitudes, and to where His *Word* guides us when meeting with offensive remarks at work, at home, or on the playing field when engaged in sports.

We have two lethal *enemies* living within—enemies that will eventually *destroy* us and *take* us to the flames if they are not revealed, placed before God in prayer, and asking Him to *remove* them from our heart.

It is *not* about going through the motions each day, but about allowing God to remove Satan and self from within our heart each day.

When these enemies are *removed* and *replaced* by the Spirit of Christ, we will treat everyone with kindness, consideration, and divine love at all times and in all situations.

It is absolutely *necessary* for every human soul to have sin, self, and Satan *removed* from their heart in order to be *prepared* for Heaven.

AV John 12:24 “*Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die [Jesus said], it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”*

The first step in Joseph being free from self and Satan was to be *ridiculed*, *laughed at*, and treated *cruelly* by his brothers.

If anyone today is the recipient of such treatment—and it is met as *Joseph* met it—they *too* would be delivered from self and Satan—those two wicked enemies that would eventually destroy them!

Elihu told Job that if his heart was right with God, he would be with kings on a throne.

NIV Job 36:10 “*He makes them listen to correction and commands them to repent of their evil. 11 If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment.”*

Because Joseph met wrong attitudes toward him in a scriptural way, he eventually went from a *cot* in a *prison*, to a *throne* in a *palace*.

AV Proverbs 22:4 “*By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.”*

And God has a throne for anyone else who allows Him to teach them as He taught Joseph!



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