

Twenty Pieces of Silver!

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Genesis 37:25-36

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We were reminded of the importance of asking God to reveal wrong attitudes in our heart, and if we are committed to doing the will of God in our life, we can be confident that He will answer that request as we continue to obey His Word.

These brothers see Joseph from afar and plan evil against him before he even tells them why he came. They strip him of his *coat of many colours*—which has been the source of jealousy with the brothers—this gift from the father brings out the resentment in their hearts.

After grabbing the coat off Joseph—**AV Genesis 37:24** *“And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. 25a And they sat down to eat bread”*—With not a shred of compassion or decency for their brother and they take time for lunch.

Genesis 37:25b *“And they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.”*

These Ishmaelites are descendants of Ishmael—son of Abraham through Hagar. After Abraham’s second son Isaac was born through Sarah, Ishmael and his mother were banished to the desert.

Ishmael is considered a minor figure in Judaism and Christianity, but he plays a foundational role in Islamic tradition.

AV Genesis 37:26 *“And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?”*

27 *Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.”*

Reuben is not with them so Judah suggests a way to deal with Joseph. He says there is no profit in taking their brother’s life, but they can sell him as a slave and make some money. They agree and take advantage of a passing caravan.

We still see no compassion nor any desire to honor their father—even though they would be aware that God had clearly commanded—**NKJV Exodus 20:12** *“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”*

Reuben had previously convinced the brothers **Genesis 37:21** *“Let us not kill him,”* but **22** to *“Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him.”* His suggestion met with approval, so they suspend the planned violence.

AV Genesis 37:28 *“Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for **twenty pieces of silver**: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.”*

These revengeful brothers carry through with their wicked plan to get rid of Joseph. The rage and fury in their heart intensifies since they do not deal with this anger and resentment in a scriptural way. It is obvious that the devil is firmly in control of their actions.

AV Genesis 37:29 *“And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?”*

He asked his brothers what he could now do before the father discovered what happened. All this does not seem to bother them at all, and they do not suggest any right way to deal with it.

They should suggest that they tell the truth and give their father some form of closure. They could say that Joseph might be working in Egypt.

As Satan has been firmly entrenched in these brothers, they do not come up with any right way to resolve the dilemma for Reuben, who has taken responsibility to inform their father. All they do is conceive more evil—which is from the deceiver of all who are not aware of the devil’s evil plans.

In John’s gospel, Jesus said to the Pharisees who were challenging Him: **NIV John 8:44** *“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire.”*

He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

Joseph’s brothers were *living* a lie and *telling* one lie after another—heading straight for the lake of fire—with wickedness, rage, and resentment in their hearts. In their present spiritual condition, they were heading for the worst fate imaginable.

These brothers were walking in the darkness of the world and sowing seeds of destruction that would follow them on into eternity if not *revealed, repented* of, and *making* things right with their brother.

This example shows how important it is to continually ask God to show us any attitude in our heart that does not have His approval, and which would eventually take us to the lake of fire if not exposed and eliminated.

AV Genesis 37:31 “*And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;*

32 *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.*”

We cannot imagine how anyone could be so bold in telling such a wicked lie to their own father. These brothers show no remorse; no compassion; and absolutely no concern for their aged father.

It is the worst form of dishonoring a parent and the worst way of deceiving their own father. It shows that if Satan and self are in control, much harm and evil results.

Jacob is shocked AV Genesis 37:33 “*And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.*

34 *And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.*”

These sons know the truth of the matter but show no remorse for deceiving their father by saying they *found* the coat, when they actually *stained* the coat to hide their wicked act. Jacob recognizes it and fears the worst. The only way someone could do such a wicked thing and show no remorse is if Satan is entrenched within their heart.

AV Genesis 37:35 “*And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.*”

Jacob grieves intensely for his son, as he is convinced that the worst has happened.

We would think that these sons would at least tell their father that some Ishmaelite traders bought Joseph as a slave and that he probably was working in Egypt.

Reuben seems to be the only one wanting to act with some decency toward his younger brother. The other brothers do not even tell Reuben why Joseph was not in the pit.

Satan has full control of their decisions, as they do not explain the truth of the matter. It is another example of self and Satan controlling people, and of the vital need for us to ask God every day to reveal if any of the sin nature is still in our heart.

AV Genesis 37:36 “*And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.*”

The situation seems to worsen for Joseph, as the “*captain of the guard*” in Egypt is also the executioner for the Pharaoh. We know that God is in control, however, and He has protected Joseph's life to this point—He will surely be faithful to continue with His protection.

Joseph had to meet all this cruel treatment and to respond in a scriptural way to be prepared by God for much bigger and better things—especially in getting ready for eternal life.

God is doing His best to *prepare us all* for His kingdom—He wants us to learn spiritual lessons from unfair and offensive treatment from others.

As we place all such difficult situations and wrongs in the hands of Almighty God to avenge and bring about justice, we can be sure it will be done and done correctly.

God will prepare anyone for His kingdom if they are willing to follow His training program—and it all starts by our dealing with

unfair treatment and insulting remarks in a scriptural way.

It is possible that self and Satan remain hidden in our heart—until some unprovoked wrong or offensive remark is said to us or about us—it is *then* that those two deadly *enemies* within can be revealed. Satan is determined to *destroy* us and *take* us to the flames.

Since we all began life filled to the top with human plans, worldly thoughts, pride and unscriptural attitudes toward people and situations, it can take some serious trials to expose their presence within our heart.

Our prayer to God is that these enemies be *removed* and *replaced* by the Spirit of Christ—and when we have His divine nature in our heart, we will treat people with kindness, respect, and love at all times and in all situations.

Joseph *feared* God so he *obeyed* God, and because he met *wrongs* in the *right* way, he went from a *cot* in a *prison*, to a *throne* in a *palace!*

And God has a palace for anyone else who realizes how serious it is to have the evil nature in control, and who then will *allow* God to remove it from our heart in preparation for the *greatest* of all cities and the *grandest* of all mansions in His kingdom!



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