

Review/last week

Gen 46:33-34: “When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, 'What is your occupation?' 34 you should answer, 'Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.' Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians.”

NIV

- **Reason separated in Goshen!**

Commentary:

The dislike of the Egyptians to shepherds arose from the fact, that the more completely the foundations of the Egyptian state rested upon agriculture with its perfect organization, the more did the Egyptians associate the idea of rudeness and barbarism with the very name of a shepherd. This is not only attested in various ways by the monuments, on which shepherds are constantly depicted as lanky, withered, distorted, emaciated, and sometimes almost ghostly figures (Graul, Reise 2, p. 171), but is confirmed by ancient testimony.

How did sheep graze vs. cattle?



Why did Judah get the nod? He repented.

Gen 38:26 “She is more righteous than I, for I gave her not Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more.”

- Like Onan he refused Tamara her right to a child.
- Judah’s wife had just died, so she has a child by Judah/father-in-law instead of her son-in-law.

Contrast this with Reuben and Simeon and Levi (Gen 34:30-31).

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

**Gen 37: 2 “These are the generations
of Jacob.”**

- **Further developments in the life of Jacob.**
- **Patriarch – “Father-ruler”**
- **Joseph is important, but he was not a “father-ruler.”**
- **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob!**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

- **What incidents provoked jealousy and hatred?**

- **Gen 37:2 Tattletale?**
- **Clear favoritism – 37:3-4**
- **Sharing his dreams – 37:8**
- **Brothers envied him – 37:11**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

What incidents provoked jealousy and hatred?

- **Gen 37:2 Tattletale?**
- **Clear favoritism – 37:3-4**
 - **The first born of his beloved wife, Rachel.**
 - **“Coat of many colors” = Reaches to one's ankles and has long sleeves.**
- **Sharing his dreams – 37:8**
- **Brothers envied him – 37:11**
 - **Joseph had good character! Righteous.**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

Sold into Slavery.

- **Who did not want to kill Joseph? (vs 21-22).**
 - **Reuben!**
- **Who suggested he be sold? (vs 26).**
 - **Judah!**
- **What was the amount they received?**
 - **20 pieces of silver (vs 28).**
 - **Comparison: Ex 21:32. Insult!**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

- **How did they betray Jacob?**
 - **Lied and told them he had been killed by a wild beast (37:31-35).**
 - ***Poetic justice* - how?**
 - **Jacob had lied and deceived Isaac.**
 - **What must have served as a constant reminder of what they had done?**
 - **Gen 37:35**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

Betrayed by Potiphar's wife! (Gen 38)

- **Gen 39:8-9**

- **What three things was he concerned about?**

- **His Master**

- **His Morals**

- **His Maker**

- **How easy for Joseph to become a depressed, cynical person?**

- **What is ironic about Gen 40:7?**

Main Injustices/Tests

Victim of Hatred and Jealousy

Victim of Lying

- **1 Peter 2:19-20 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. 20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

- **What happens to Joseph in prison?**
 - **Gen 39:21-23**
 - **He floats to the top yet again!**
- **He interprets whose dreams?**
 - **Butler – Gen 40:9-14**
 - **Baker – Gen 40: 16-22**
 - **Who made Joseph a victim of ingratitude? Gen 40:23**

Joseph: You can't keep a good man down!

- **Pharoah's dreams – Gen 41:1-36**
- **Joseph is exalted to being 2nd only to Pharoah. – Gen 41: 37-46**
- **This did not go to his head. Why?**

Main Injustices/Tests

Tested by Power!

- **Abe Lincoln quote**
- **How did Joseph handle all of this injustice, abuse and pain?**
- **How did he let go of the past so he would mature into a well-adjusted adult?**

Why Judah get the nod?

Gen 49:10-12

Gen 44: 14-34

He offered himself as the *substitute* and took on the rap for Benjamin!

He saved/redeemed his brother!

He was ring-leader, now willing to become a slave himself!

Letting Go of the Past

Gen 41: 51-52 “God has made me forget all my trouble and my father’s household.”

- **Joseph overcame a bitter past and maintained a positive outlook**
- **Have you come to terms with your past?**

Three Secrets of Josephs Success

- **Dealt with Past, Present, and Future . . . Balanced Way!**
- **Took the hurt wounds of the past and fixed them so they would heal properly.**
- **He kept his faith in God strong so it would serve as the anchor throughout his trials/successes!**

We must live in the present

- **Matt 6:34 “Each day has enough trouble of its own.”**
- **Ps 118:24 “This is the day the Lord hath made, we will rejoice.”**
- **Like submarines in air-tight compartments!**

How do we relate to the future?

- **Worry = prayer to wrong God!**
- **Learn to Trust in God**
- **He was able to see the hand of God in His life!**
- **Joseph: Gen 45:5-10 Part of God's plan... okay!**
- **How did Joseph react when he realized his brothers never really believed that he forgave him? Gen 50:15-20**

How do we relate to the Past?

- **Must not dwell on it. (Josh 1)**
- **Must not over-react to it!**
 - **1 Kings 1:6 Adonijah**
 - **6 His father had never crossed him at any time by asking, "Why have you done so?"**

Joseph could have reacted

- **I will never trust anyone**
- **I will give up on doing right and serving God!**
- **“We are affected by our past but we are not prisoner’s of it!”**
- **Must let go – *release* through forgiveness. Eph 4:31 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, tender-hearted, *forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you***

How Does God Forgive?

Does not forget, just decides not to hold it against us any longer.

- **“These ten times have I forgiven your transgressions.”**
- **Sins are blotted out, but leave scars**
- **We can distinctly remember forgetting something happened.**