



# GENESIS

## **Joseph Sold Into Slavery** **Genesis 37:12-36**

1. Joseph's brothers illustrate that where our heart goes, our actions will follow. What controls you? What emotions do you need to surrender to Christ? What are the tensions in your life right now between flesh and spirit? Where do you need to surrender your flesh to God's Spirit?  
*Matthew 5:21-22; Galatians 5:19-23*
2. Joseph's brothers also illustrate for us that any hate towards others is really a hatred toward God. What do your feelings toward others reveal about your love for God? Where does your love for God and your hate for others run into conflict?  
*1 John 4:20*
3. We see in this text that hatred toward others causes us to devalue another image bearer of God. Where do you run the risk of devaluing another person because of your feelings toward them? Where is hate and resentment causing you to devalue another person?  
*Mark 12:31*
4. Reuben and Judah each want to spare Joseph's life to cover up the blood, meaning that they do not want God to see their sin. This reminds us that we can't hide our sin from God. It will always find you out. What are you attempting to hide from God in your life?  
*Hebrews 4:13*
5. We see that little did Joseph's brothers suspect that the very plan they were scheming would lead to the fulfillment of the dreams they were trying to eliminate. Reminding us that the sovereign word of God never fails. Where do you need to be reminded that our sovereign God is in control of all things?

## Genesis 37:12-36

### Joseph Sold Into Slavery

<sup>12</sup>Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem. <sup>13</sup>When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them." "I'm ready to go," Joseph replied. <sup>14</sup>"Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron. <sup>15</sup>When he arrived there, a man from the area noticed him wandering around the countryside. "What are you looking for?" he asked. <sup>16</sup>"I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Do you know where they are pasturing their sheep?" <sup>17</sup>"Yes," the man told him. "They have moved on from here, but I heard them say, 'Let's go on to Dothan.'" So Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan and found them there.

<sup>18</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. <sup>19</sup>"Here comes the dreamer!" they said. <sup>20</sup>"Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" <sup>21</sup>But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. <sup>22</sup>"Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father. <sup>23</sup>So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. <sup>24</sup>Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. <sup>25</sup>Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup>Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. <sup>27</sup>Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed.

<sup>28</sup>So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt. <sup>29</sup>Some time later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief. <sup>30</sup>Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, "The boy is gone! What will I do now?" <sup>31</sup>Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. <sup>32</sup>They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?" <sup>33</sup>Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!" <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. <sup>35</sup>His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "I will go to my grave mourning for my son," he would say, and then he would weep. <sup>36</sup>Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.