Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 18 – 22

* Jesus told a parable in Matthew Chapter 21 about the wicked vinedressers. He spoke on how the owner of vineyard sent his son to the vinedressers but when they saw the son, they said among themselves, *“This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.”* Jesus was most certainly talking about Himself however Joseph is a ***remarkable picture of Jesus*** and we see this scene harken even to what happened to Jesus. As the Father sent Jesus to the Jews (as a Jew – as their Brother), and He was rejected and ultimately killed…
* And listen to what they say! *“We shall say some* ***wild beast*** *has devoured him!”* **This is interesting!** Because 1 Peter 5:8 says, *“The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour!”* If Jesus had stayed in that grave then Satan would have the victory…but the scriptures record that Jesus wasn’t devoured by death but rather 1 Corinthians 15:54 says, *“Death was swallowed up in victory!!”*
* As the enemy snickered at the cross, *“We will see what will become of his dreams,”* Jesus went behind his back, even descending into the lower parts of the earth, to free those who were held because of sin (Ephesians 4)…and then, just as the victory was settling into the mind of Satan, he was reclining in his ***evil lawn chair*** with his **evil iced tea and snacking on his favorite evil carrots**, Jesus broke through the barrier of death and rose alive and immortal…Colossians 2 says, *“Disarming the devil, making a public spectacle of him in triumph!”* Which is exactly what Joseph will do eventually…
* So the brothers call for Joseph’s death but Rueben objects…**Reuben is a type, a picture of Pontius Pilate**….as Pilate argued for the sake of saving Jesus, finding no fault in Him…but eventually delivered him into a pit…something of *punishment and shame* but not death just as Pilate ordered Jesus to be publically flogged.
* Reuben, the oldest…notice this…in the end of verse 22 it says, *“That he might bring him back to his father…”* **But he didn’t.** According to the record that’s what he *wanted* to do…that was the *right thing* to do…**but he didn’t**…Do you see this? Why not just stand up for once against the evil inside and around you, Reuben? What’s the point? I see myself in Reuben. Knowing what is right, talking like I’m going to do right, but then sometimes retreating so as to not stand against and offend others…***and that drives me crazy.*** Reuben should have died defending his brother if it came to that…but Reuben is a *proven loser*…he has betrayed his father before…he does it again here…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 23 – 24

* Jesus was also *stripped* of His robes and the soldiers cast lots for his clothes as was prophesied of the Messiah in Psalm 22:18. Jesus was abandoned by His brothers on the cross and thrown into an empty pit…a tomb that had never been used…and here is possibly a proof text of sorts for the thought that upon the cross, as Jesus died for the sins of the world, He cried out in agony, *“My God, My God,”* not *“My Father”* for once, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?!”* Many speak of a time where Jesus ***bore the full brunt and brutality*** of the price of sin as the Father turned His head from the Son…and this text here says that Joseph (explicitly calls this out), was thrown into a pit where there was no water…***bone dry and abandoned is the thought***…so perhaps a supporting text for that thought although the comment, *“The Father turned His head,”* is not found in scripture.
* But on the cross, Jesus was fulfilling a transaction and that transaction is called out in these verses….that ***He was taking His righteousness…and clothing us in it***…His cloak, His authority, His position as heir at the right hand of the Father…and handing it to His family…and ***in a way***, and I’ll never forget this…**I stole that robe from Him**…I stripped Him of it…because in the end, it was my fault, it was my sin that required His death…

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 25a

* They sat down to eat a meal!? ***Heartless!*** Later in Genesis Chapter 42 we will hear the brothers say, *“We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear…”* Which means, as they ate, they could hear him calling out to them and yet they did nothing…**none of them…**

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 25 – 28

* Joseph arises out of the pit, ***a picture of the resurrection***, and as Jesus the Messiah was given to the nation of Israel, He is again rejected and therefore He is sold (*if you will*) to the gentiles through the ministry of Paul the Apostle…such a clear parallel…and here it is…***this is how Joseph gets to Egypt…***

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 29

* I love what Guzik said about this scene. He said, *“Rueben tore his clothes as an expression of utter horror and mourning because his* ***weak stand for righteousness accomplished nothing.”*** Wow! You ever *half-fix* something? *No, guys we never do that do we?* HA! Or you ever tell someone you’re going to help them, start something and leave it half-done? That does more damage to a relationship then not ever stepping forward to help in the first place! Colossians 3:23 says, *“Whatever you do, do it whole heartily, do it completely, as to the Lord and not to men…”* ***The work was complete before God rested on the seventh day…***

Genesis Chapter 37 Verses 30 – 36

* The grief of the father…***nothing helps, nothing consoles***…and in that we feel the magnitude of what it cost the Father to give His only Son to save us…but in this scene, in this circumstance, the grief of the father, Jacob’s horror…**is based on a lie**…but even so, to Jacob, ***Joseph is as good as dead…***
* It is amazing…the power of what we believe…In a study published in 2014 in the Journal of Experimental Psychology, researchers from Colorado College tested the effects of being *told* you’re getting enough sleep…they took a group of students and hooked them up to sensors while they slept and they were told that it’s a proven fact that people who get more than 25% REM sleep function much higher than folks that don’t. Then they went to sleep.
* Once they awoke in the morning, one group of kids were told that they got **excellent** sleep…more than 25% REM, while another group was told they got **terrible** sleep, less than 15% REM when in reality, they all got about the same amount of quality sleep. In each circumstance, the student that was told they got good sleep performed better on a control test then the students who were told they got terrible sleep. You know what the conclusion of the study was? ***What you believe, triumphs.***
* You know, the world tells you to be happy you have to be *healthy, wealthy and high*…while the enemy constantly tells you you’re worthless and nothing but a wretch…while the Word of God says ***aim for joy, aim for peace, aim for strength of endurance and let happiness take its place as a fleeting emotion***…and know that through the blood of Jesus, you are free from your sin. Know that God loves you even unconditionally and perfectly ***without delay or interruption***…the voice that you believe is ultimately your choice…and will be the deciding factor if you will pass the test…tonight, tomorrow for all of eternity…