



TRINITY GRACE CHURCH

Genesis 37:2-36 II The Sale of Joseph II Walt Alexander

Does disaster come to a city unless the Lord has done it? Amos 3:6

MAIN POINT: No sin or suffering can undo the plans of God's providence to make us more like Christ.

1. The Dreams of Joseph. (v.37:2-11)

For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. Psalm 75:6-7

2. The Sin of the Brothers. (v. 37:12-28)

They said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." Genesis 42:21

"One of the sweetest gifts to us between the 'already' of our conversion and the 'not yet' of our home going is the gift of the body of Christ. God makes his invisible grace visible by sending people of grace to give grace to people who need grace. His people are meant to be the look on his face, the touch of his hand, the sound of his voice, the evidence of his love, the picture of his presence, and the visible demonstration of his faithfulness. God hasn't left us to ourselves but has blessed us with an abundant community of help. The question is whether your suffering will drive you inward to go it alone or call you outward in humble, honest, and willing dependency." **Paul Tripp**

3. The Deception of Jacob. (v. 37:29-36)

Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. Genesis 15:13-14

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. Acts 2:22-23

"We ourselves are guilty. If we were in their place, we would have done what they did. Indeed, we *have* done it. 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' the old negro spiritual asks. And we must answer, 'Yes, we were there.' Not as spectators only but as participants, guilty participants, plotting, scheming, betraying, bargaining, and handing him over to be crucified. We may try to wash our hands of responsibility like Pilate. But our attempt will be futile. Before we can begin to see the cross as something done *for us* (leading to faith and worship), we have to see it as something done *by us* (leading us to repentance). Indeed, 'only the man who is prepared to own his share in the guilt of the cross', wrote Canon Peter Green, 'may claim his share in its grace.'" **John Stott**