



Beginnings 14

4/10/22

Genesis 37

1. Drew mentioned that we often view the people and stories in the Bible as “heroes of faith” and examples to follow. But reality is much more messy. He said, “If God can use messy families to bless the world, he can surely do something special through yours.”

**Do you think God has used or wants to use you or your family to bless the world?

**If so, how has he done this?

2. Read Genesis 37:1-2. Notice the type of report that Joseph brought to his father about his brothers. Then read vv. 3-4.

**From reading this passage, how would you describe Joseph’s character?

**Is the hate that Joseph’s brothers have for him justified?

3. Jacob sent Joseph to inspect his brothers as they were shepherding their flocks. As Joseph approached his brothers, they conspired to throw him in a cistern (Genesis 37:19-24). But then they got the idea to sell him into slavery instead (37:25-27). Read 37:28 in multiple translations (NIV and ESV/NASB recommended).

**Who actually sold Joseph to the Midianites?

For further discussion: The Hebrew behind these translations is ambiguous as to who is doing the selling of Joseph, which the ESV and NASB reflect. The NIV decides to interpret this ambiguity for you. Next read Genesis 37:36, 39:1, and 45:4-5

**From these texts, what can you conclude about who sold Joseph into slavery?

4. Think about your view of God. There are many different ways that we can incorrectly think about how God works. For example, do you (or have you) viewed God as a mechanic? This means that when something is broken, you take it to God and ask him to fix it. While God certainly can fix things, this is not the full view of God.

Here are other views of God to consider: a judge, personal butler, genie, puppeteer, vending machine, Santa, the “man upstairs,” and a cheerleader.

****Discuss what God is like in each of these views, and also how God would be limited if this was all he did.**

****Do you have a tendency to view God in any of these ways?**

For further discussion: Drew described how God is in control and can work behind the scenes for the good of those who love him (Romans 8:28).

****In light of the Romans passage and the Joseph story, what is a better view of God?**

****Can you think of a metaphor that describes this view?**