

Let's Worship God

6th-11th March 2023
Genesis



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Monday - Genesis 38:24-30 - Repentance Blessed

When Judah finds out that his daughter-in-law is pregnant, he is ready to have her killed as an adulteress. He chooses to ignore the fact that he himself has committed this same sin. We can be very quick to point the finger and punish others for the same sins we carefully hide in our own life. Perhaps also, Judah, who doesn't want his last son married to Tamar, is glad for this excuse to get rid of her.

But the tables are soon turned on Judah, as to his shame he discovers that he is the father of Tamar's children. There is no sin that is kept secret from God, and He often brings to light what we think no one will ever know. Judah, being convicted by his own conscience, confesses his sin and turns from it, determined to not do it again. True repentance isn't just being sorry for what we've done wrong, it's also trying as hard as we can not to do it again.

Despite this great sin, God blesses Judah and Tamar with two sons, Perez and Zerah. Tamar, herself, is mentioned (along with only 5 other women) in the genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew chapter 1. So, despite their wickedness, from Judah and Tamar come the kings of Israel and eventually the Messiah. They become examples of repentance and God's forgiving mercy.

Questions

1. How does Judah want to punish Tamar?
2. Why does he decide not to?
3. What does it mean to repent?
4. Who was one of Judah's and Tamar's descendants?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's forgiving mercy.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Genesis 39:1-6 - Joseph the Slave

Moses, the author of Genesis, now brings us back to the story of Joseph. He has been sold by his jealous brothers to the Ishmaelite slave traders who are on their way to Egypt. Being sold as a slave can often result in death, but God is watching over and protecting Joseph.

When Joseph is brought to Egypt he is bought by an officer of Pharaoh, who, no matter what he pays, gets a great bargain, for a good and righteous man, whom the Lord will bless, is priceless. As Joseph learns about the people and business of Egypt this is just another step in God preparing him. God is always involved and guiding every detail of our lives as He works out His plan for us.

The moment Joseph comes into Potiphar's house the Lord begins to bless Potiphar. Potiphar can't help but notice the wisdom and grace of Joseph and how God is blessing him, so he quickly puts Joseph in charge of everything. Joseph may have been robbed of his home and freedom, but he cannot be robbed of his faith. Even though he is separated from his family and friends, he is never separated from God. When no one is with us, God remains. It is God's presence with us that makes all that we do prosperous. If we want to do well, we must make God our friend, and when we do well, we must give God the praise.

God continues to bless Potiphar's house. Good men bring a blessing to the place where they live, and good employees bring a blessing to employers. Here is a wicked, unbelieving family blessed for the sake of one good servant in it.

Questions

1. Where is Joseph taken by the slave traders?
2. Who buys Joseph?
3. How does God treat Joseph?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's presence with us in all situations.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 39:7-12 - Fleeing From Temptation

These verses tell us about the sinful behaviour of Potiphar's wife. Her sin begins in the eye. Looking around she lusts after Joseph. We must guard against the sins of our eyes and thoughts before they work their way into our actions. But Potiphar's wife does not stop with committing adultery in her heart, she works to get Joseph to commit adultery with her. Her heart is fully set to do evil, and she is not ashamed or deterred.

This is a great temptation to Joseph. The hand of Satan is probably in it, who, when he finds he cannot get Joseph to sin in anger and bitterness towards his brothers, takes a different tack. It is a very strong and persistent temptation, one possibly very attractive to a young man like Joseph. It is seemingly in his best interests to give in to the temptation as it can lead to power and influence or even his freedom, whereas to resist it will only cause trouble as he will make his master's wife his enemy. Finally, if he gives in, there appears to be no danger of it ever being discovered - it seems as though no one will ever know.

By the grace of God, Joseph is able to resist and flee from this great sin. He will not wrong his master by doing such an ungrateful and wicked thing, especially considering the great trust his master has placed in him. Being in a position of trust and responsibility does not give us a license to sin, instead it gives us even more reason not to sin. But more importantly Joseph realises that he cannot sin against God. God has chosen him and taken care of him, and this sin that Joseph calls 'such a wicked thing' is against Him primarily. If we want to avoid sin, we must learn to see it for how wicked it really is, avoid it whenever we can, and flee from it when it grabs hold of us.

Questions

1. Who is Joseph tempted by?
2. What does he do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would see sin for the evil it really is.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 39:13-23 - Joseph the Prisoner

Joseph has done the right thing and fled from temptation. But as so often seems to be the case, he only gets more trouble for doing what is right. But in the end things will turn out the best possible way for Joseph. . . even if he may not see it at the time.

Her infatuation turning to anger Potiphar's wife is quick to accuse Joseph, first to the servants who might have been jealous of Joseph and only too happy to see him brought low, and then to her husband. She is covering up her own wickedness with a lie, and it is a lie with the sole purpose of destroying Joseph.

Potiphar believes his wife, and he has Joseph cast into prison. By the mercy of God, Joseph isn't put to death. Instead God is going to use this imprisonment to bring Joseph to a position of great power. The Lord is with Joseph even in his imprisonment, fulfilling His promise that He will never leave or forsake His people. God blesses Joseph, even in prison, and the prison warden puts Joseph in charge of the other prisoners. God's blessing can not be held back by prison walls. But for Joseph it must have seemed a dark time as he thought of where he had come from and the hopelessness of his future. But God is even then working out his perfect plan for Joseph's good.

Questions

1. Who does Potiphar's wife accuse of evil?
2. Does Potiphar believe her?
3. Where does Joseph end up?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our trust in God in all circumstances.
2. What is Jacob's reaction?
3. What happens to Joseph in Egypt?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our trust in God and avoid bitterness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 40:1-8 - The Cupbearer and the Baker

We would probably have never heard this story of the cupbearer and the baker if it wasn't for the fact that it is part of God's plan for Joseph to bring these men across his path. Both of these men have offended Pharaoh in some way (some think that they were both suspects in an attempt on Pharaoh's life). Whatever the reason, they have been thrown in prison and put under Joseph's care.

God then fills the heads of the cupbearer and baker with dreams that leave a very vivid impression. They know that these dreams have come from God, but they are completely lost as to the meaning of them. God can use even the dreams of men to serve His purposes. Not even being thrown into prison by Pharaoh could make these men as sad as these bewildering and confusing dreams.

When Joseph notices how dejected these two new prisoners are, he tries to find out why. This is a sign of his great tenderness and compassion towards men. He does not ignore these prisoners or think arrogantly about himself, but he takes the time to care for them and is concerned with their emotional state. Joseph, being a prisoner like them, can understand their sufferings at being prisoners, and he wants to try to help. God's Word is full of commands that tell us to concern ourselves with the sufferings of others, love others as we love ourselves, and care for all men. Joseph is a great example of this kind of selfless, sacrificial love that despite its own circumstances, seeks to care for others.

Questions

1. What two men are thrown into prison?
2. What bothers them once they are in prison?
3. Who tries to help them?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Genesis 40:8-19 - Interpretations

Pharaoh's chief cupbearer and baker have angered him and been thrown into the same prison as Joseph. While there God has sent them troubling dreams that have greatly upset these men. When Joseph finds out that these men are sad because they do not know the interpretation of their dreams, he takes this opportunity to point them to God as the only source of truth and the only One who can provide an accurate interpretation of their dreams.

The chief cupbearer's dream is a happy one that foretells his restoration to his old job. Interestingly, even though Joseph is given this interpretation, Joseph has no new revelations about what will happen to him. He must trust in the promises of God made to him, just as we must trust in God's promises to us found in His Word when we are unable to see the way ahead.

When the baker hears the happy interpretation of the cupbearer's dream, he is quick to ask for an interpretation of his dream. But it foretells his shameful death. Joseph, here, is almost a picture of what Christians should be doing. We must warn the world that a time is quickly coming when they will either be restored to a good relationship with God through putting their faith in Him, or through turning away from God, wanting nothing to do with Him, they will die an eternal death. Joseph didn't tell these men what he thought they wanted to hear - he told them about the reality of their situation. We have a responsibility to do the same.

Questions

1. Where does Joseph tell these men true interpretations come from?
2. What is the meaning of the cupbearer's dream?
3. What is the meaning of the baker's dream?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Genesis 39:9b

Praise: Psalm 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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