

Riddled  
in  
Sin

**Genesis 37:20 – 38:1**



~ It was getting dark in our last report as we left Joseph trying to catch up to his brothers. They, apparently, had left him behind when they went out to tend the sheep of the family they had murdered. They're all very far away from home now. Jacob sent Joseph out to seek his brothers and tell them to come back; but they weren't going to listen to Joseph – because they hated him – and one of the main reasons was because Jacob was so partial to him. Then, Joseph told them about the dream he had; where they would all bow to him and serve him. That poor choice was the final act that solidified their disdain and indignant hatred for their brother.

Well, Joseph didn't know where they were – and it took him a while to catch up to them - but they saw him coming a LONG ways off. Joseph walks blindly into his own murder without being even dimly aware of what was going on. It's a little bit chilly out tonight and the sun is almost down again when they see Joseph coming - and he's wearing that coat! That would have been just like waving a red flag in front of a bull. This coat represents favoritism because there were older brothers that should have been given that coat first. See, a garment like this was a pretty big deal in those days. So, they just absolutely want to kill him. Remember, they said, "...behold this dreamer cometh." Jude says later, "...filthy dreamers." Now, they say....

**XXXVII**

***20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.***

***21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.***

~ This is Israel. See, friends, the Bible isn't just some simple little manual about something. Most people have an abject ignorance of almost all things Scriptural – and they are the ones who consider themselves spiritual and gifted and all of that nonsense – when, in my estimation, they aren't even saved. Now, it would seem this was a very kind intervention by Reuben, but, instead of killing Joseph quickly and mercifully, they decide to drop him in a pit! I guess they think they'll feel better if he dies slowly. See, they aren't concerned about murder or anything else. They are only mildly troubled by their innate conscience regarding the murder of a brother - and that makes these men need to do the killing the easy way. This is cruel and it's plainly unforgivable by man's standards. Thank God it's NOT unforgivable by His standards – by the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ – because this account just happens to be a picture of Y-O-U, my friends – and a picture of me, too....

***22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.***

***23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;***

***24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.***

***25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.***

***26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?***

***27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.***

~ The story gets worse and worse. Judah here is glad they didn't kill him because they might be able to profit a few bucks now for him if he's alive. I guess they hadn't thought of that in their hatred? See, this part of the Bible is never taught – because it can't be taught today. It can't be taught today because the only congregation in this world that could support such an outreach can't afford to support it. The rich man isn't interested in some safari something. Most people of the world consider themselves "religious" in some form – and the religious man won't be reading this report; I assure you of that. I think they were glad they found a profitable way out, personally. Selling Joseph into slavery meant a living death for him - and they knew that – and nothing could have made them happier. I urge you dear readers to look very closely at what happens here. The brothers have Joseph down in a hole to hold him. They, apparently, go off to strike a deal with Ishmeelites - and do make the deal. So, they go back to the pit to get Joseph, but the Midianites had already come by and taken him and sold him into slavery. This is crazy, friends. Whatever happened, it was abject treachery towards Joseph by his brothers – and a bad business deal gone even more horribly wrong than could have possibly been anticipated – all rolled into one bad thing....

***28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.***

***29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.***

***30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?***

***31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;***

~ I have no evidence from the Word of God that Reuben wasn't in on the scheme; and that's why I interpret this the way I do. I realize there are other interpretations - and some think this is an outright contradiction because it says "Ishmeelites" and "Midianites" in the same reference. I understand all of that, friends, but, Midian was a son of Abraham from the marriage after Sarah had died. Ishmael is from Hagar. So, either way, this is all a correct account. This family is the master of deception and trickery – and, obviously, murder. As we move on, they know good and well that Jacob would know it was Joseph's "coat of many colors." They hated that coat! They acted as if they hadn't even seen Joseph; but had just found the coat somewhere covered in blood. They had no compunction about killing their brother and they don't care about seriously harming their father psychologically, either. These are cold blooded killers....

***32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.***

***33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.***

~ The only consolation we have in this account is that Jacob said, "...is without doubt..." - and that tells me that Jacob DID have a doubt. See, Jacob knew deep down that his sons would lie right to his face – and they could very well be playing him for some unknown reason. Jacob isn't stupid, friends. We need to remember here how the trickery went down so many years ago with Jacob and Isaac. Jacob fooled his dad, Isaac, with goat's fur that he put on his hands to feel hairy like Esau was. Here, the coat that also may have been made out of goat is dipped in the blood of a goat to deceive Jacob by his own sons. The same deception Jacob used on his father is being used on him here by his sons. Friends, get a pencil out and write this paragraph down because it will happen this same way EVERY time. The same method you use to deceive will be used to hurt you in return – apples for apples and tangerines for tangerines – sooner or later. God is not mocked. That which a man soweth, that shall he also reap. God is no respecter of persons, either. Just because you may lead some Spiritual

Safari or something, you won't get by with sin in your life; if you are a genuine child of God....

***34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.***

***35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.***

~ Someone has said this certainly shows the demonstration of deep love Jacob had for Joseph - and I agree that Jacob did love his son - but see, Jacob STILL has not learned to walk by faith. Remember, we saw the deflation of Jacob's ego at Peniel. His flesh was broken there; but that is different than walking by faith. According to the Book of Hebrews, Jacob really had no faith AT ALL until much later - when we get all the way to his death. If you want a triple-check, compare this to the way David responded to the death of the baby that was born out of his grievous sin – and – the death of his son Absalom, who rebelled and led a coup against David. David loved Absalom more than any of his other sons, to be sure. He loved the infant son that died that he had from Bathsheba equally as much. Well, Jacob here loves his son but there is no faith. Remember, David said, "....that little one can't come back to me but I'm going to him, someday." That is faith! Jacob here refuses to be comforted. That's hopelessness! It's abnormal grief.

My Christian friends, this may sound brutal, but I mean it in love: those of you who have lost a loved one....learn to walk by faith! We can only manifest the Christian life when we acknowledge that we can't bring that dead person back. There is a point when the grieving does no good at all; it actually starts to diminish yours and the other lives around you because it is so drastically abnormal. If the one you are grieving over was also a child of God then walk by faith! It is a lack of faith that defines the lost man of the world - and they all grieve as Jacob grieved here – without faith and without hope – and that, my beloved, makes this one difficult section of Scripture to comprehend and accept – or teach....

***36 And the Midianites sold Joseph into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.***

~ We leave Joseph at this terrible place in his life and skip his story for one chapter as we examine another that's about as useful as a horse with a kickstand! Chapter thirty-eight – it seems entirely useless and, after we read the account, we will wish it had been left out of the Bible altogether. I must make this statement right now: Chapter thirty-eight is the worst chapter in the Bible. No other chapter is as bad as this one. Well, almost no other. Here, we are going to take to the skies once again in our safari airplane and map out a spiritual landscape as we did in the account of Lot down in Sodom. Let's say we're going to fly over chapter thirty-eight and land at thirty-nine. Fasten your seat belts because this will be a bumpy ride. The weather forecast for this and the next leg in our expedition is terrible, terrible, awful and then dreadful weather! So, let's go....

**XXXVIII**

***1 And it came to pass at that time, which Judah went down from his brethren, and turned in to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah.***

~ From high above, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg our expedition through the entire Word of God looking down on Judah. Judah is the line that leads to the Lord Jesus Christ, of course. We have several names that are intensely interesting. This line of Jacob is riddled in sin and the Lord Jesus came through that line. The Word of God is telling us in this chapter that Christ came to us through a sinful, awful and despicable lineage and a totally and completely depraved mankind. God is trying to tell you that Jesus was made as we are in all points. Yet, Christ knew no sin. He was holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners; but sinless Jesus is going to come to us through a sinful lineage. See, Christ took our place down here, friends. Consider Him ~



