

BEYOND THE FLANNELGRAPH

JOSEPH

PART 1

TWO RIGHTS CAN MAKE A WRONG!

Genesis 37:1-20

- **Giftedness** is not an excuse for bad behavior.

Genesis 37:1-11, Mark 9:33-37, John 13:35, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

We can know God's **plan**, have the right **motives**, and still be far from the **will** of God.

- A **godly man** can still make God **look bad**.

Genesis 37:12-20, 1 Samuel 15:10-11

It does no good to have **spiritual maturity** without **relational maturity**.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT GOD'S PLAN!

Genesis 37:20-36

- Only **you** can derail God's **dream** for you.

Genesis 37:20, Psalms 1:1-6, John 14:23, Galatians 4:8-11, Hebrews 10:35-39

- Worrying about what the **crowd thinks** leads to terrible decisions.

Genesis 37:21-30, 1 Samuel 15:24, 1 Corinthians 15:33

- Focusing on **short-term gain** leads to terrible decisions.

Genesis 37:26-27

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 30, 2005

QUICK REVIEW

What did you find most helpful, challenging or interesting from this week's message?

MY STORY

1. How do you think you would respond to Joseph if you were one of his brothers? Have you ever been in a similar situation?

2. As you look back on your life, are there any hard times, mistakes or disasters that you now see God has used to shape you into who you are today and the influence you have on others?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Wouldn't it have been great if someone could have pointed out to Joseph how his actions were affecting his relationship with his brothers? Identify the behaviors in the verses below that, at times, people may not be able to see in their own lives.

Proverbs 29:11

A fool gives full vent to his anger,
but a wise man keeps himself under control. [NIV]

Proverbs 29:20

Do you see a man who speaks in haste?
There is more hope for a fool than for him. [NIV]

Proverbs 27:14

If a man loudly blesses his neighbor early in the morning,
it will be taken as a curse. [NIV]

Proverbs 11:13

A gossip betrays a confidence,
but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. [NIV]

Proverbs 13:10

Pride only breeds quarrels,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice. [NIV]

Proverbs 15:27

A greedy man brings trouble to his family,

but he who hates bribes will live. [NIV]

What might be some subtle signs that a person is struggling with these issues?

Which of the behaviors would be easiest for you to fall into and how would you want someone to help you become aware of it?

2. Peter is a great example of someone who wanted to do the right thing and thought he understood God's agenda, but at times missed the mark. How is this revealed in the following passages?

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

[22] Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

[23] Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." [NIV]

John 13:33-38

"My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

[34] "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

[35] By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

[36] Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

[37] Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

[38] Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! [NIV]

John 18:1-5

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it.

[2] Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.

[3] So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.

[4] Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"

[5] "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) [NIV]

John 18:10-11

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.)

[11] Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?" [NIV]

How does Jesus' response to Peter in Matthew 16:17-19 give us hope as we work toward making our agenda align with God's?

Matthew 16:17-19

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. [18] And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. [19] I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." [NIV]

3. Having right motives is vital to living out God's call. How do the following verses help us check our motives?

Proverbs 1:5

let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance-- [NIV]

1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. [2] If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. [3] If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. [NIV]

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. [NIV]

TAKING IT HOME

1. Are there any actions or character weaknesses in your life that could have the potential to hinder your relationships or diminish your influence?

2. Are there any motives you have that are based on what the crowd thinks or based on short-term gain that need to be conformed to God's agenda?

3. There is a glimmer of hope at the end of Genesis 37. Is there a pit you are facing for which you could use a ray of hope?