

True and Better

intro:

few sermons about Genesis 34-36 but a lot about 37 why?
lends itself to self -help

6 lessons from Winnie the Pooh

Piglet: everyone appreciates empathy and kindness

Kanga: too much fussing can be smothering

Eeyore: theres always a silver lining to be found

Tigger: appreciate your friends, but int bounce on them

Owl: insufferable know-it-all-ism doesn't actually impress anyone

Pooh bear: mindfulness brings peace and joy

8 lessons from the life of Joseph (a popular christian conference)

be principled

be humble

be disciplined

be faithful

give grace

be excellent

be wise

be strategic

so then...what is the lesson of genesis 37?????

Problem: Matt 5:20, 48

there is nothing more condemning than the self-help gospel -

here is the good news - you are not Joseph - and genesis 37 is not about leadership principles

Main Idea:

this story not about your slander - Its not about your partiality

Its not about your greatness - Its not about your jealousy

its not about your persecution - Its not about your leadership - Its not about your hypocrisy

Its not about your consequences - its not about your loss

its not about you, its about the cross

Implication:

Christ is the true and better Joseph

Application:

the jews tried to make Scripture a Law, the Gnostics sought to make it a secret, the Greeks tried to turn it into a philosophy, the Romans made it into an government manual, the Europeans reduced it to a cultural mythology, and we Americans have morphed it into a life coach

but Scripture is and always has been about Christ

if you embrace the self-help version of Christianity you will miss Christ

Articles for further study:

<https://www.wholesomewords.org/etexts/ironside/care2.html>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-insanity-of-self-care>

True and Better

Text:

this story is not about your slander its not about your partiality

Gen. 37:2 ¶ These are the generations of Jacob. ¶ Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And **Joseph brought a bad report (dibbah-slander) of them to their father.**

Gen. 37:3 Now **Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons**, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors (passim - uncertain).

Gen. 37:4 **But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.**

Psalm 15:1-3 (you will still slander - no hope in self help)
James 2:1-13 (you will still show partiality- no hope...)

Its not about your pride its not about your jealousy

Gen. 37:5 ¶ Now **Joseph had a dream**, and when he told it to **his brothers they hated him even more.**

Gen. 37:6 He said to them, "**Hear this dream that I have dreamed:**

Gen. 37:7 Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf."

Gen. 37:8 His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?" **So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.**

Gen. 37:9 ¶ **Then he dreamed another dream** and told it to his brothers and said, "**Behold, I have dreamed another dream.** Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Gen. 37:10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, **his father rebuked him and said to him**, "What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?"

Gen. 37:11 **And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.**

Mark 10:35-45 (its not about your greatness)
prov 8:13 (you will be proud - no hope)
Matt 5:21-24 (you will hate - no hope)

its not about your persecution your works

or your hypocrisy

Gen. 37:12 ¶ Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

Gen. 37:13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am."

Gen. 37:14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Gen. 37:15 And a man found him wandering in the fields. And the man asked him, "What are you seeking?"

Gen. 37:16 "I am seeking my brothers," he said. "Tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock."

Gen. 37:17 And the man said, "They have gone away, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to **Dothan (two cisterns).**'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

Gen. 37:18 ¶ They saw him from afar, **and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him.**

Gen. 37:19 **They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer.**

Gen. 37:20 **Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits.** Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

Gen. 37:21 **But when Reuben heard it, he rescued him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life."**

Gen. 37:22 **And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him"—that he might rescue him out of their hand to restore him to his father.**

Gen. 37:23 **So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colors that he wore.**

Gen. 37:24 **And they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.**

Gen. 37:25 ¶ Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt.

Gen. 37:26 **Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood?"**

Gen. 37:27 **Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.**

Gen. 37:28 Then Midianite traders passed by. And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. They took Joseph to Egypt.

1 Pet 4:12-15 (you will deserve some suffering - no hope in self help)

Gen 35:22 (Reuben was trying to atone)

Gal 3:1-14; 5:1-12 (you will try to earn his love - no hope in self help)

Gal 2:11-21 (you will be a hypocrite - no hope in self help)

its not about your karma its not about your grief

Gen. 37:29 ¶ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes

Gen. 37:30 and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?"

Gen. 37:31 Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

Gen. 37:32 And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, "This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not."

Gen. 37:33 And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces."

Gen. 37:34 Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

Gen. 37:35 All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

Gal 6:7-10 (you will sow to your own flesh - no hope in self help)

Jacob favorites, goat

1 Thess 4:13 (you will still mourn like the world - no hope self help)

Its not about you

Gen. 37:36 **Meanwhile** the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard.

Ps 105:1-22 (acts 7 about God's work not self help) - Gods works

its about the cross

Luke 24:25-27, 44-48 (Christ is the greater Joseph)

more space to Joseph than Abraham, Isaac or

Jacob

Jn 19:21-24 (can you see Him?)