

## Genesis 37 Bible Devotions

### ☐ Monday - Submission to Authority.

Genesis 37:3-4

Though Joseph was the second youngest of twelve, Jacob conferred upon him the birthright of the firstborn (1 Chron. 5:1-2). For that reason, Joseph's brothers despised him and his coat of many-colors which reminded them of their younger brother's authority over them (Gen. 37:3-4). Yet Scripture is clear, whether we like those in authority over us or not, God's people are to submit in all things lawful, "for there is no authority except from God ... therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God" (Rom. 13:1-2). Moreover, true submission is rendered, not with a slanderous tongue, but by real honor paid to those in authority over us (1 Pet. 2:17). Read 1 Peter 2:13-20

### ☐ Tuesday - God's Will Cannot be Thwarted.

Genesis 37:23-24

The Lord had revealed to Joseph that one day his brothers would bow down to him (Gen. 37:7-11), but the only bowing that Joseph saw as he lay at the bottom of that well was his brothers' heads as they look down upon his humiliating condition (Gen. 37:23-24). Sometimes life can be so confusing and so difficult that we may wonder how the will of God could ever be accomplished. Nevertheless, the counsels of God's will never miss a step but continue marching forward right on time. Evil men cannot stop it. The devil, in all of his craft, cannot thwart it. Nothing can stay God's hand. Yes, this is the confidence we have in Him. Our God reigns and "His sovereignty rules over all" (Psalm 103:19), and years later Joseph's brothers did bow to him (Gen. 42:6). Read Job 42:2

### ☐ Wednesday - We Know the End of the Story.

Genesis 37:23-24

As bad as Joseph's circumstances are in Genesis 37, we know that everything will be great by chapter 41, because we know how the story ends. Christian, as bad as things may seem now, don't despair! Read the end of the Book (i.e. The Bible)! Righteousness will prevail! "Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). Read 1 Peter 4:12-13

### ☐ Thursday - Fear of Rejection.

Genesis 37:27-28

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, talk about rejection! Yet rejection is an unavoidable part of life for *every* child of God, especially if we are serious about sharing God's Word. But if, because fear of rejection, we shrink back, we are not only disobedient to the great commission (Mt. 28:19), but we deprive ourselves of one of life's greatest joys – leading others to Christ! "But just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts" (1 Thess. 2:4). Read Daniel 12:3

### ☐ Friday - Pattern for Life.

Genesis 37:18-36

God sets before us, in the life of Joseph, the pattern for the Christian life: humility/humiliation, then exaltation. It is the path Christ walked, who humbled Himself infinitely and so has been infinitely exalted. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time" (1 Peter 5:6). Read Philippians 2:3-11