



# Come & See What God Has Done

Sold Into Slavery

Dec. 5

"Joseph's life goes from bad to worse in this next segment. As if it weren't bad enough to be thrown into a pit as revenge for being prideful, being sold into slavery was just the next step in the brothers' plans for Joseph. We read in Genesis 37:28-34, 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. When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes and returned to his brothers and said, "The boy is gone, and I, where shall I go?" Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 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." 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." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days.

We can't help but notice a similarity between Joseph being sold for 20 shekels and Jesus being sold out for 30 pieces of silver. Betrayal had a price in both instances. But again, there is more to this picture than the slavery aspect we see on the surface. This problematic phase of Joseph's life is all part of God's plan. The Lord had more in store for Joseph, as we can see in Genesis 39:2-4. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.





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The above verses show that this was all part of the Lord's plan to bring about a fundamental change in Joseph. The pride boy was being shaped through trials. Yet, God was offering glimpses of what could be to Joseph.

Trials in life are seldom what we would willingly walk into. Yet, in some cases, we are our undoing. Whether outside of control or self-inflicted, problems can refine us and make us better than we once were. The prophet Jeremiah shares what the Lord has to say about refining His people. In Jeremiah 9:6-7, Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?"

Trials and tribulations are difficult. Each of us will endure difficulties in our lives. But there are essential aspects of these trials to remember. That aspect is to be faithful to the Lord and to carefully consider what is going on to foster a change in you. Tests are often teaching moments for you and me. One of my favorite activities in times of trial is to examine where there is something to be learned within the trial. Without exception, that has been my experience. The Lord is leading me in a new direction or offering me a learning opportunity. He does the same for you. He asks you to look ahead, trusting in him, to see what he will do in your life.

Leaning on Jesus  
Forest Holmes