

Sermon Title: New Beginnings – The annoying sibling

- A couple of weeks ago Pastor Dan asked who was the favorite sibling in your house?
  - But if you grew up in a family of more than 2, not only did your family have a favorite, **it also probably had an annoying sibling.**
  - (shocking) Example when I was the annoying sibling.
- Today we are meeting someone new in our study of the book of Genesis, and his story will take us to the end of Genesis, his name is Joseph.
  - Joseph's story is one of the greatest stories in all of the Bible.
  - We have many weeks to focus on Joseph, so today we are going to focus on the rest of Joseph's family.

### **Genesis 37:2-11**

- This family seriously has some issues.
  - But what would you expect, a family of 12 sons born of 4 different women, 2 wives, and 2 servants of those wives.
  - Jacob, who clearly learned nothing from his own childhood, decides that Joseph is going to be his favorite.
  - By giving him this coat and making him a manager over the other sons, saying that he was going to be Jacob's heir.
  - Picture of Jacob's family tree.
  - Joseph was born 11<sup>th</sup> out of 12 but chosen to be the heir.
  - The rest of chapter 37 shows Joseph's brothers really turn on him, decide to kill him, end up selling him into slavery, and lying to Jacob telling him that Joseph was dead.
- How did the family go from dysfunctional to murder?
  - Let's look at some of the language from our passage to see
- Verse 11 in our passage said that **Joseph's brothers were jealous of him.**
  - Jealousy, or other times translated envy, is a sin that we are all familiar with, I'm sure. Envy causes us inward pain when someone else succeeds.
  - It's the absence of gratitude, the absence of contentment.
  - Joseph's brothers saw their father favor Joseph, and that made them jealous.
  - Then little brother goes and tells them of a dream he had, where all of his brothers would bow down to him, and **jealousy and anger quickly turned to hatred.**

- I have to ask, who are you jealous or envious of?
- This week take a moment and ask yourself why you feel this way, and what can you do to stop yourself at jealousy or reverse your jealousy, and not make things worse?
- **Three times in verses 4-8 it is said that his brothers hated Joseph.**
  - Hate is defined as intense or passionate dislike.
  - Quite a bit different from **Psalm 133:1**
  - And jealousy was a step along the road to hate.
  - **But it was more than that, Joseph's brothers hated him because he was different.**
  - **John 15:18-19**
  - His brother's hated Joseph, the Pharisees hated Jesus, and as Christians today we should expect people to hate us too.
  - But I have to ask one more question, is there anyone that you hate?
  - **Matthew 5:21-22**
  - **Matthew 5:44**
- The last thing Joseph's brothers do to him is actual violence.
  - Envy and hatred lead to violence.
- And of course, after the violence came lying to their father, making him believe that his favorite son was dead.
  - **Our sins are rarely singular, more often they are systemic.**
  - That's why we need Jesus, to stop the system of sin in our lives.
- I have already given you your challenges for this week:
  - Examine ourselves for envy and hatred.
  - Because for us to truly love others, we have to stop hating people, and we have to stop saying that we hate people.
- Some of you might be asking, **"Where is God in today's story?"**
  - God's sovereignty can be seen in a few places:
  - Even though Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him, they were persuaded otherwise.
  - It was no coincidence that Joseph was sold to exactly the people God wanted him to be sold to.
  - **Genesis 39:2-4**
  - At the end of Joseph's story, we hear **Genesis 50:20**
  - **God is faithful, even when it seems like he isn't. We just need to be patient to see the big picture of God's plan and see him at work even in the difficult times of our lives.**

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Genesis 37:2-11: <sup>2</sup>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 of them to their father. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. <sup>6</sup>He said to them, "Hear this dream that I have dreamed: <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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." <sup>10</sup>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?" <sup>11</sup>And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

Psalm 133:1 - Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!

John 15:18-19 - If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. <sup>19</sup>If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

Matthew 5:21-22 - <sup>21</sup>"You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment

Matthew 5:44 - <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

Genesis 39:2-4 - <sup>2</sup>The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. <sup>4</sup>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.

Genesis 50:20 (NIV) - You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."