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Part I: Dysfunction and Deception

Genesis 45:5 (ESV)- And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- ◆ Joseph's Great Grandfather Is Abraham
- ◆ Joseph's Grandfather Is Isaac
- ◆ Joseph's Father Is Jacob
- ◆ Joseph's Mother died when he was young
- ◆ Joseph has eleven brothers (mostly half brothers)

Notes: _____

1. THE DYSFUNCTION

Genesis 37:1-3 Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. Joseph, being seventeen years old...He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives...Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons....

2. THE DRAMA

Genesis 37:3-4 (ESV)-And he made him a robe of many colors. 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.

3. THE DREAMS

Genesis 37:5-8 (ESV) Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more....And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf...

4. THE DECEPTION

Genesis 37:18-22 (ESV)- Then they took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood....and brought it to their father and...he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe.... Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.

Life Application Section

A. Your dysfunctional situation is not an obstacle to your purpose.

Genesis 37:2 (ESV)-Joseph, being seventeen years old...He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives.

B. Unchecked emotion leads to unthinkable action.

Genesis 37:19-20 (ESV)- They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits.

C. God redeems bad choices, but does not endorse them.

Genesis 37:27 (ESV)-"Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh."

D. God given dreams may take you to unexpected.

Genesis 37:28 (ESV)-And they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites... They took Joseph to Egypt.

Here Is The Point: God is at work in the dysfunction of this world!