

A FAVORED SON AND A HATED BROTHER

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Gen 37:1-4 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan. These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report. Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

Jacob was an old man whenever Joseph was born and because of this, along with the fact that he was born to Rachel, the beloved wife, Jacob was a favored son, and also a hated brother. His brothers hated him because their father favored him.

The distribution of love was not equal in Jacob's household. The boy with the coat of many colors stood out from all the rest. I believe that Joseph was a good boy, but no doubt he was spoiled and probably also a bit arrogant.

Gen 37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

A lot of times we are guilty of bringing trouble upon ourselves. Joseph's brothers already hated him and when they heard about his dream, they hated him even more.

Everybody needs a dream, but you can't tell your dream to everybody. Dreamers get laughed at and mocked and ridiculed and criticized and many times those things come from those closest to you.

Dreamers usually pay a high price for their dreams and this was certainly true in the life of Joseph.

His brothers stripped him of his coat and cast him into a pit and then they sold him into slavery.

Next week we talk about Joseph being sold into Potiphar's house and the temptation that he faced there.