

The Favored Son > Genesis 37:1-11

37:1-4 *Loved and hated.* As we've seen several other times in Genesis, favoritism causes strife and yet – in God's grace – is part of how the Lord is growing and preserving His people. So it is here with Joseph who receives favor from his father.

37:5-8 *The first dream.* Joseph's first dream involves a farming picture that is interpreted to mean that his brothers will end up bowing down to him, indicating that Joseph has the place of honor and authority in their family. If the brothers already despised Joseph, this does nothing to help.

37:9-11 *The second dream.* This dream again indicates how Joseph will have authority and power over his family. This time, he is mildly rebuked by his father, yet Jacob seems to consider that there might be more to these dreams than meets the eye.

Context: These final chapters of Genesis follow the story of Joseph, Jacob's second youngest son, and how the Lord will use him even in spite of the sinfulness of his family.

Argument: The Lord's ways are not our ways, and He is at work in ways that are both surprising and unique.

Gospel: Our salvation in Christ also displays God's perfect sovereignty and the shocking and surprising ways that He brings about rescue for sinful people like us.

Applications: God's grace is greater than our sin – and that's a truth worth celebrating! Joseph's courage in speaking what is true is a challenge to each of us: how will we respond?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
