

God's Plan – Really?

August 14, 2011

Oakbrook Community Church (PCA)

Genesis 37:2-36

Pastor Mark W. Turner

Reality of Hurt from Sin in this Fallen World

- Most have been hurt by own or other's sin
- God is sovereign over all even though it is often difficult to see
- Today's text: prophesied & planned Gen 15:13-16
- God is sovereign over man's sin (Jer 8:10; 13:13; 19:3,9 25:9; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28)
- Let us declare *'how unsearchable are His judgments & how inscrutable His ways!'* Rom 11:33

1. God is sovereign even when parents are uncaring & make mistakes

- Jacob made many mistakes with his family: competition over kids; daughter compromised in Shechem; didn't seem to care sons murdered in revenge; blind towards son's hatred...
- But nobody has perfect parents... they are all sinners... so what to do?
- No matter the circumstances YOU are responsible to obey God!

2. God is sovereign even when we are foolish

- Joseph was young (17)
- Probably was not malicious in sharing dreams, but not wise
- Actions fueled jealousy of brothers

3. God is sovereign even when others sin against us

- Circumstances were less than ideal, tense family situation Gen 37:18ff
- Committing one sin to avoid 'greater' sin of murder is no better
- Reuben sought to protect – motives may have been impure (Gen 27)
- God is sovereign: Joseph delayed in finding to allow caravan to arrive...

4. Joseph is an example on obeying God and Christ is our power to obey in difficult circumstances!

- Nothing happens outside of God's plans
- Do not fear the world or circumstances even though they look bad
- Rely on promises of Christ! God can't be thwarted by circumstances!
- Whether sin of others or own sin: it is within God's plan
- Cling to the promises of God as shown in Christ
- Obey God the way Joseph & Christ obeyed God

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