



Part 1: Wrong Place, Wrong Time

Pastor Grant Fishbook
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How would my life be different if I was
absolutely convinced in every moment, no matter
how good or how bad, that God was with me?

Genesis 37:1-11

¹ Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² This is the account of Jacob.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

Learning moment from adolescence:

Just because you think it does not mean you should say it.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made a richly ornamented robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph got a bad gift from his earthly father: Favoritism

⁵ Joseph had a dream,

Joseph got a good gift from his heavenly Father: Dreams

Joseph took something good and pure (the dream) but used it for an impure purpose.

...and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

Joseph shared the gift of the dream:

- At the wrong time
- With the wrong group
- With the wrong heart attitude
- Without proper wisdom
- Without the proper filter

(Continues on back)

Wisdom asks:

- Who was this gift intended for?
- Was it designed for me alone?
- Does it line up with God's heart?
- Does it line up with God's timeline?
- Is it self-serving in any way?

Question: What good and pure gifts has God given you that have been used for an impure purpose?

¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Keep in mind: The dreams were right! The application was wrong!

James 3:13-18 (English Standard Version)

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵ This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wisdom recognizes that God has a coat for everyone.

Next Steps

CTK offers 4 recovery classes that start this week—*12 Steps, Changes, Deep Healing, and Boundaries*. Find out more on page 3 of our Winter Classes flyer and sign up at the Connection Point today, especially if you will need child care.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What are your plans for Super Bowl Sunday?
- 2) Growing up, did you believe that your parents played favorites? What did you base that assumption on? Do you still hold that opinion?
- 3) What good gifts has God given you that you used for your own gain?
- 4) Have you ever witnessed a spiritual gift being used well? How was God glorified by the proper use of that gift?
- 5) Who do you have in your life that you use for discernment and guidance? What have they done to earn your confidence?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?

OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.