

Dover

Daily

DEVOTIONALS

Growing
Together in
God's Word!

In this week's sermon, we explored the theme of favoritism and family division, drawing lessons from the story of Joseph in the Bible. We discussed how Jacob's favoritism towards Joseph, symbolized by the coat of many colors, led to jealousy and division among his sons, ultimately resulting in Joseph being sold into slavery. We also highlighted the importance of humility and the dangers of arrogance, emphasizing the need to treat everyone with love and fairness. The sermon concluded by reminding us of God's sovereignty and His ability to work all things for good in our lives, even in the face of trials and tribulations. It encouraged us to trust in His plan and seek His guidance in our daily journey.

Dover Daily Devotions

Monday: Favoritism and Family Division

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. 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."

- Genesis 37:3-4, ESV

Jacob's unmistakable favoritism toward Joseph, manifested through the extravagant gift of a colorful robe, set in motion a tragic chain of events, ultimately sowing the seeds of jealousy and division among his children. Joseph's brothers, feeling excluded and overlooked, succumbed to feelings of resentment and anger. This story serves as a stark reminder of the perilous consequences of showing partiality within our own families.

Favoritism can manifest in various forms. It can rear its head when we favor one child over another, when we prioritize our children over our spouse, or even when we treat one family member more favorably than the rest. But regardless of how it takes shape, the result is consistently destructive, leaving behind a trail of bitterness and animosity. Our families, the fundamental building blocks of society, should be sanctuaries of love, support, and togetherness. They should be places where each member is valued and cherished, where unity and understanding thrive. When favoritism takes root, it threatens the very essence of what a family should be—a source of strength and refuge in a world that often seems chaotic and harsh. So, let us learn from Jacob's mistake and strive to cultivate an atmosphere of equality, love,

and mutual respect within our own families, for it is through this that we can truly honor God's intention for the family unit.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced favoritism or witnessed it within your family or someone else's? How did it affect the relationships?
2. What steps can we take to ensure that our families are free from favoritism and characterized by unity, compassion, and harmony?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us recognize and resist the destructive force of favoritism within our families. Teach us to treat each member with love, respect, and fairness, creating an environment where unity, compassion, and harmony prevail. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Tuesday: Dreams and Discord

"Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. He said to them, 'Hear this dream that I have dreamed: Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.' His brothers said to him, 'Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?' So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words."

Genesis 37:5-8, ESV

Joseph's dreams, although undoubtedly a source of inspiration and hope for him, ignited a fire of jealousy and discord among his brothers. This tale reminds us that our own dreams and aspirations, while essential for personal growth, should never become fuel for arrogance and pride. It's a stark reminder that in our journey through life, as blessed individuals, we must remain grounded in humility.

Our faith teaches us to look to Christ, who, despite His divine nature, displayed the utmost humility. He not only washed the feet of His disciples but willingly laid down His life for the salvation of humanity. This extraordinary example challenges us, especially when we find ourselves in positions of power, success, or blessing. In those moments, it is crucial to remember the profound importance of humility and the service of others. We are called not to exalt ourselves but to uplift those around us, to consider others more significant than ourselves, just as Christ did. Through this, we can transform our dreams from mere personal ambitions into instruments of love, compassion, and inspiration for the greater good of all. In doing so, we embrace the divine wisdom that calls us to live a life of grace, kindness, and a deep commitment to the welfare of our fellow beings.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced or witnessed the negative impact of pride and arrogance on relationships? How did it affect the dynamics?
2. How can we maintain humility when blessed with gifts, talents, or positions of authority, ensuring that they don't lead to division or discord?

Prayer:

Lord, grant us the wisdom to remain humble in the face of our blessings and successes. Help us to follow the example of Christ, who humbled Himself for our sake. May our relationships be characterized by humility and genuine concern for others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Wednesday: Joseph Brought Low

"So, when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him."

Genesis 37:12-17, ESV

Jacob, in his misguided attempt to protect his favored son, unwittingly stokes the fires of jealousy and resentment within his own household. The backdrop to this story is one of familial favoritism, where Jacob's deep affection for Joseph has led him to bestow upon his beloved son a robe of many colors. This act of preferential treatment sets the stage for the unfolding drama.

As Joseph approaches his brothers, his radiant coat symbolizing his father's favor, we witness an unsettling scene of sibling rivalry and hatred. The removal of Joseph's colorful robe by his brothers serves as a stark repudiation of his perceived authority and the rejection of his father's favoritism. The depths of their resentment are laid bare as they cast him into a pit, seemingly indifferent to the anguish and despair they are inflicting upon their own flesh and blood. In this narrative, we are reminded of the destructive power of envy, the corrosive effects of favoritism, and the potential for division within our own families.

As followers of Christ, we must learn from this story and strive to avoid the pitfalls of favoritism within our own families. We are called to prioritize love and unity, fostering an environment where each member is valued and cherished. Just as Joseph's brothers' actions were a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of jealousy and division, we are challenged to nurture relationships built on compassion, empathy, and the enduring bond of love. Through God's grace, we can overcome the divisive forces that threaten to tear families apart, embracing the divine call to unity and harmony in our homes, just as we are called to unity within the body of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you recall a situation where someone's misguided attempt to protect or favor a family member led to division or resentment within the family?

2. How can we ensure that our attempts to protect loved ones do not inadvertently cause division or resentment among family members?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, guide us in our efforts to protect and care for our loved ones within the family. May our actions promote love and unity, rather than division and resentment. Help us recognize the importance of treating all family members with fairness and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Thursday: Lies and Loss

"The brothers took Joseph's robe and slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. And they sent the robe of many colors and brought it to their father and said, 'This we have found; please identify whether it is your son's robe or not.' And he identified it and said, 'It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without a doubt torn to pieces.'"

Genesis 37:31-35, ESV

The brothers' action of presenting Joseph's bloodied robe to their father Jacob, resulted in profound grief and despair that consumed his heart. The very act they hoped would remove an obstacle to their father's love ended up causing a chasm of alienation to widen between father and sons. As we reflect upon this story, we are reminded of the importance of honesty and open communication within our own families and communities. The consequences of deception, as we can see, extend far beyond the immediate moment, affecting the very foundation of our relationships. Let us strive to foster truthfulness, love, and understanding in our families.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced a situation where lies or deceit led to division within a family? How were the consequences felt?
2. How can families promote honesty and open communication to prevent lies from causing division and alienation?

Prayer:

Lord, help us to embrace honesty and open communication within our families. May we recognize the destructive nature of lies and deceit and choose a path of truth and reconciliation. Grant us the wisdom to mend any divisions caused by dishonesty. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Friday: All Things For Good

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28, ESV

Joseph's journey, marked by suffering and betrayal at the hands of his own brothers, eventually leads to their repentance and God's profound work in molding their characters for His divine purposes. It is a story that resonates with us today, as we navigate the complex landscape of our own lives. In the face of trials, we are called to place our trust in God's unwavering sovereignty, even when the path forward appears fraught with obstacles and setbacks. We may not always understand the mysterious ways in which His plan unfolds, but we can take solace in the knowledge that every twist and turn ultimately serves a purpose and works for our ultimate good. It's in adversity that our faith is tested and refined. We can find comfort and strength by holding fast to the assurance that God is in control and that His divine purposes will be revealed in due time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you recall a time in your life when you faced challenges that later revealed God's providential plan?
2. How does the knowledge of God's sovereignty provide hope and reassurance during difficult times?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your providential plan and your faithfulness in our lives. Help us trust in your sovereignty, especially during times of trials and setbacks. May we find comfort and hope in the knowledge that you work all things for our good. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Saturday: Transforming Broken Families into Blessings

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons because he was the son of his old age. 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."

Genesis 37:3-4, ESV

Families, as designed by God, are meant to be havens of love, righteousness, and safety. They are the places where we first experience the warmth of human love and the foundations of our faith. Yet, we are all too aware that sin can mar the beauty of these family units, twisting them into places of jealousy, hatred, and conflict. The story of Joseph and his brothers in the book of Genesis serves as a poignant reminder of how family dynamics can go awry. Joseph's brothers were consumed by jealousy and sold

him into slavery, causing unimaginable pain and separation. It's a heartbreaking story that resonates with many who have experienced the turbulence of a broken or dysfunctional family background.

If you or someone you know has walked a path marked by the brokenness of family relationships, take heart. God's redemptive power is not bound by the circumstances of our past. Just as Joseph's story unfolds, we will witness how God's redemption can transform a troubled family into a source of profound purpose and good. Joseph's journey through betrayal and adversity eventually led him to a position of great influence in Egypt, where he played a pivotal role in saving his family and countless others from a devastating famine. In the same way, God can use the darkest moments of our family history to bring forth blessings we could never have imagined. He can mend the brokenness and, in His perfect timing, turn our families into beacons of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Embrace the hope that comes from knowing that your family's story is not over yet. God's hand is guiding the narrative, and His redemptive power is more than sufficient to transform your family's brokenness into a source of profound purpose and good.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you share a personal or observed example of how God's redemption transformed a broken family situation into a source of blessing?
2. How can we trust in God's power to heal and restore even the most fractured family relationships?

Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for Your redemptive power and the promise of healing even the most broken family situations. Help us trust in Your ability to bring forth blessings from trials and difficulties within our families. May we be agents of reconciliation and love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.