

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Cole Meador Bryan Garlock
Bill Brittenham Jon Barry

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Melvin Potts

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Rodney Ellis

Scripture Reading

Mark Davis

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Cole Meador Clay Morris

Prayers

Bryan Garlock Bill Brittenham

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Gerald Eaton

Song Leader

Clay Morris

Prayers

Joseph Barry Jon Barry

Invitation

Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

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When Dreams Turn To Doubt

Bubba Garner

Nearly 20 times in the Scriptures, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are mentioned together. They are the faces of the Patriarchal Age and of the covenant God made with the Hebrews. But have you ever noticed how much space is devoted in the book of Genesis to telling the story of the fourth patriarch, Joseph? There is no effort to merely hit the highlights or skim the headlines of his life. In fact, the only other person who is given more chapters in the first book of the Bible is Abraham, the father of the faithful.

I think there's a reason for that. Many of us have felt what Joseph felt; we've been where Joseph was. That is, we've experienced the bitter disappointments of life. We've had things happen to us where even our own family members were against us. We've been accused of things that were not true and suffered just because we were trying to do the right thing.

But how many of us have endured these things and responded the way Joseph did? Who has taken hit after hit and kept an

unfailing faith in God? Perhaps that's why so much space is given to telling his story.

Joseph was called the "dreamer" by his brothers (Gen. 37:19). And he still serves as an example to the spiritual descendants of Abraham when our own dreams appear to be in doubt.

You don't have to be a slave to your circumstances. Joseph's brothers were so filled with hatred and jealousy toward him that they sold him for the equivalency of \$15, the price of a slave. Surely Joseph never dreamed his life would take a turn in that direction. But notice what path he pursued after his hopes seemingly came crashing down. *"The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man"* (Gen. 39:2).

Some people are looking for the perfect life. They want the perfect family who lives in the perfect house and drives the perfect car in the perfect world. But that's not the way it works out. That's not even the way it worked out for the man who holds the second-most amount of space in the book of Genesis. Yet, one of

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, W.H. McFerrin, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Charles Lansford has moved to rehab.

Pat Buls tests showed she did not need surgery at this time.

If you missed any of the services during our meeting with Mark Roberts, they are posted on our web page. And if you want copies, there is a sheet in the auditorium for requests.

Please pick up some invite cards and ask for Bible studies. See Bryan if you need any help with home studies.

Continued from page 1

the common reactions when life deals us this way is to throw up our hands and concede defeat. You don't have to do that. You don't have to be a slave to bitterness, discouragement, and selfishness. When the Lord is with you, freedom is always in your future.

When you've been wronged, you still have to act right. Potiphar's wife, the original "Desperate Housewife," was after Joseph. She "cast longing eyes" (Gen. 39:7) at him and pursued him "day by day" (Gen. 39:10) to lie with her. What was the response of a handsome 17 year-old-boy who was a captive in a foreign land? "How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God" (Gen. 39:9). In all that had happened to him, Joseph understood that

committing fornication was not going to bring back what he had lost. Such a sin would only serve to make matters worse.

We have a tendency at times to add trouble to trouble. The husband has a bad day at the office, so he comes home and yells at his wife and kids. A teenager thinks his parents are treating him unfairly so he goes out drinking with his friends. A wife has a husband who won't communicate with her so she confides in another man and commits adultery. What problems do such actions solve? What relationships are repaired? Sin never makes a wrong right. Let our behavior, no matter the circumstances that surround us, be pleasing to our Master in heaven.

Your plans may not always meet with God's purpose. Years later, Joseph made himself known to his brothers having risen to second-in-command of all Egypt. But he did not repay evil for evil or punish them for what they had done. By then, he could see the bigger picture. "For God sent me before you to preserve life...and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Gen. 45:5-8). Surely Joseph had earlier prayed for deliverance from his brothers and for release from prison. But those prayers were answered not according to his timetable but in His time.

We must maintain a similar faith in what God is working in our own lives. Remember, he causes "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). Joseph knew that the same God who brought Him down to Egypt in an Ishmaelite caravan would one day bring his family out of Egypt to inherit the land sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Heb. 11:22). May we have such a confidence in the plans and purposes of God. How will you respond the next time you encounter various trials? Joseph's example shows us that with God, our dreams really can come true.

The Pattern for Personal Apostasy

Dee Bowman

It seems to me that even evil follows a predictable pattern. I have seen one or two persons, on rare occasions, suddenly and unexpectedly bolt from the faith and forsake God – seemingly all in one motion. However, this has certainly been the exception and not the rule. Most people who leave the faith do so gradually. And when they do, they follow what almost appears to be an assigned course prescribed for the purpose of absenting oneself from the faith and separating oneself from a divine connection with God.

One who falls away from Christ usually begins by neglecting his private worship. For instance, he will go for long periods without giving any time to meditation about God. Even when he is not under the duress of existing circumstances, he rarely ever contemplates anything about his personal relationship with God. He, because of this same type of neglect, stops praying and giving thanks to God for his goods, health, or others of his blessings. He feels smugly secure in his own egotistical pride and begins to reason that humility is a weakness, tears are for softies, and that things like moral courage, sacrifice, and virtue, are not worthy of his time or attention. In short, the time he once gave to personal devotion to glorify God is now totally wasted in efforts to satisfy himself.

One who becomes disinterested in spiritual service will soon begin to show a lack of interest in the public worship services. No one can, for any length of time, "fake" interest in a cause. His lack of attention will soon expose his true feelings. So, it is with one who leaves his first love. He starts the process by no longer listening

attentively to the songs, the sermons, the prayers. His mind is no longer tuned in to those things which should occupy his attention, and even though it may outwardly appear to be otherwise, he really is doing no more than occupying a pew.

The next thing you will notice about our wandering brother is that he will become sporadic in his attendance, particularly on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights. Then it won't be long before he ceases to avail himself of the opportunities at all. He makes for himself excuses that are logical only to him and make no sense at all to those who are anxious about his seeming lack of interest in the work of the church where he is supposedly a member.

Then when someone confronts him about his obvious lack of concern, he is immediately insulted and becomes indignant. He just can't imagine anyone thinking he is not as faithful as he should be. Why, the very idea! At about that time the excuses begin to pour out with the rapidity of white water rapids. The number of reasons for his lack of participation are so emphatic that it becomes obvious that too much emphasis becomes no emphasis at all. It's now apparent - if only to him - that someone is "out to get him," that he is "just as good as so-and-so," and that if he told all he knows about the other members there would be a moral explosion of major proportions.

Finally, he quits. He now has what he has sought for some time - a reason to leave. And, mind you, that "reason" has nothing whatever to do with him, nor is he leaving because of his own neglect, indifference, or lethargy. You see, he was driven away. The blame belongs on the church. They never wanted him there in the first place. How sad! How very sad!

The devil is subtle, cunning, crafty. He doesn't often invite people into the slime pits of sin; rather, he induces them a bit at a time.