

Scripture: God's Law (Ex. 20)

Joseph Series #4

Genesis 37:12-17 & John 3:12-21

Singing:

399:1-2 – 38:4-5 – 53 – 292:1, 2, 5 – 190:1-2

### **God's Love for the World**

I. Foreshadowed in Israel's sending Joseph

II. Foreshadowed in Joseph's readiness to be sent

#### I. God's love for the World foreshadowed in Israel's sending Joseph

A. Israel's concern for the wellbeing of his sons in Sechem (12-14)

B. Israel's concern and action *faintly outlines* the 'heavenly' of John 3:13-21

1. God so loved *the world* (sunk in sin and under a curse)

a. This world, created for His Son's glory, is now a groaning universe

● Romans 8:20-23; Genesis 6:13

b. Yet God loves the *world* for the sake of His Son's glory

2. God's sovereign love is the root of His will to send His Son for sinners

a. no sinner asks for God to send His Son: *grace is His doing only*

b. though God sees how unlovely we are, yet God's love seeks and saves sinners

3. God commanded His Son to go as the incarnate Son of God (John 14:31)

4. God sent His Son knowing full well what would happen to Him

a. Acts 2:23; 3:18; 4:28; John 1:11

## II. God's love for the world foreshadowed in Joseph's readiness

A. Though Joseph was ignorant of his future, the incarnate Son of God was not

1. Luke 24:25-26; Matt. 16:21; Rev. 13:8; Is. 53

2. Yet He said, "*Here am I – I delight to do thy will, my Father!*"

a. the cost to obey His Father was staggering and yet He did

b. the cost for us to disobey God's gracious call is also staggering

(Prov. 29:1): *why would you die, oh son of man?*

B. Joseph's persistence to find his brothers foreshadows Jesus' ministry

1. He seeks sinners to save them in preaching them the Gospel

2. He appeals to sinners today living in 'Dothan' (*two-wells*)

a. the people of Israel lived out of *two-wells*

Closing Reflections:

A. Are you still living in Dothan?

1. Serving God and mammon – halting between God and Baal?

2. Such a life is not just a failure or offense: it is a *crime*

B. Though God knows you *love to live* in Dothan, He comes and calls you

*Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he a pleasant child? For since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember Him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the*

*LORD*

Jeremiah 31:20