

Scripture Reading: Genesis 37:1-20

A Disease Called Envy

Jacob had 12 sons and 1 daughter. His 11th son was Joseph; a son of good character and God loving. Therefore, he usually would advise his brothers if there were any misdeeds. If they do not give heed to his counsel, he would complain about it to his father. Even Jacob loved Joseph exceedingly. God revealed to Joseph in a dream that he will be exalted among his brothers. Joseph shared this dream to his brothers. After the brothers heard of the dream, they became envious of Joseph. The children of Jacob, a man chosen by God, were all filled with envy against their own brother and were planning to kill him.

Question:

How can it be that the children of Jacob, a man who worshipped God and had a visitation of God, face such problems?

Answer:

The devil cannot directly enter a family that worships God. But he can still work through our fleshly sins. Envy, selfishness, anger, carelessness and greed are all works of the flesh. Through these characters, the devil tries to influence God's children towards murder, conspiracies, strife and the like. It is important for us to constantly search our hearts and be cautious to not allow such sins in our life. We should not allow the works of the flesh to rule over us. Since the brothers of Joseph gave place to envy in their hearts, the devil could easily rule over them. What happened to the promise of God, the prayers of Jacob and the dream of Joseph? We shall see it tomorrow!

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" Proverbs 27:4

Prayer

Dear father, help us have the characters found in Joseph. We shall live as virtuous children. Amen