

When the Game Plan Fails

Genesis 37:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Just as sports teams have a game plan for winning, most people have a game plan for life.
- B. Some of us found ourselves living out a life that is far different than the life we planned.
- C. What do we do when we feel as though the game plan for our lives has failed?

From Favored Son to the Lonely Pit (Gen. 37:18-24)

- A. The game plan Joseph thought his life would follow took a drastic turn when his brothers conspired against him.
- B. Joseph lost more in a matter of moments than most people lose in a lifetime.
- C. What Joseph experienced had to be different from any game plan he had in mind. Yet, notice how he handled himself when it seemed the game plan had failed.

TRUST GOD (Gen. 39:1-5)

- A. Trust had to be a huge part of Joseph's life from the time he was separated from his family.
- B. When we find the game plan for our lives doesn't exactly work out according to our plan, we must trust that God is still with us and that He still knows what He's doing (Psa. 9:9-10; Psa. 37:5).
- C. God will always be true to His promises; just not to the game plan or timetable we have in mind.

OBEY GOD (Gen. 39:6-20)

- A. Joseph could have given in and tried to justify his actions because of all the bad he had experienced.
- B. We must guard against allowing our circumstances to dictate our obedience (Psa. 119:44; Jn. 14:15).
- C. Being obedient to God will not immediately change our circumstances.

PRAISE GOD (Gen. 41:9-16)

- A. Joseph continued to trust and obey God even though it seemed his life continued to veer off course from the game plan.
- B. After everything Joseph had suffered, he was still willing to give the praise and glory to God.
- C. Many find it hard to praise God when they are experiencing difficulty (I Thess. 5:16-18; Psa. 34:1).

Conclusion:

- A. Joseph continued living out his faith and serving God even though it looked as if the game plan had failed.
- B. Many times the game plan we have for our lives is set up to fail.
- C. Are we willing to trust God, obey Him and continually shine praise on Him when the game plan we have for our lives seems to fail?