

Notes: HOW TO SURVIVE BETRAYAL

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Genesis 37:17-36

17 The man said, "They've left here, but I overheard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph took off, tracked his brothers down, and found them in Dothan.

18-20 They spotted him off in the distance. By the time he got to them they had cooked up a plot to kill him. The brothers were saying, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and throw him into one of these old cisterns; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We'll see what his dreams amount to."

21-22 Reuben heard the brothers talking and intervened to save him, "We're not going to kill him. No murder. Go ahead and throw him in this cistern out here in the wild, but don't hurt him." Reuben planned to go back later and get him out and take him back to his father.

23-24 When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, grabbed him, and threw him into a cistern. The cistern was dry; there wasn't any water in it.

25-27 Then they sat down to eat their supper. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments, and perfumes to sell in Egypt. Judah said, "Brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence? Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let's not kill him—he is, after all, our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed.

28 By that time the Midianite traders were passing by. His brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites who took Joseph with them down to Egypt.

29-30 Later Reuben came back and went to the cistern—no Joseph! He ripped his clothes in despair. Beside himself, he went to his brothers. "The boy's gone! What am I going to do!"

31-32 They took Joseph's coat, butchered a goat, and dipped the coat in the blood. They took the fancy coat back to their father and said, "We found this. Look it over—do you think this is your son's coat?"

33 He recognized it at once. "My son's coat—a wild animal has eaten him. Joseph torn limb from limb!"

34-35 Jacob tore his clothes in grief, dressed in rough burlap, and mourned his son a long, long time. His sons and daughters tried to comfort him but he refused their comfort. "I'll go to the grave mourning my son." Oh, how his father wept for him.

36 In Egypt the Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, manager of his household affairs.

"Some pain hits your body, Some pain hits your finances, But betrayal hits your identity."

"Betrayal is different because it is not just pain from an enemy. It is pain from someone you gave access to."

"Betrayal may wound you emotionally, but God can still use it strategically."

SURVIVOR

WEEK 1 — HOW TO SURVIVE BETRAYAL

Genesis 37:18–28

SURVIVAL PRINCIPLE #1

DO NOT PANIC IN THE STORM

Do not allow betrayal to make you forget who you are.

People may betray you. But betrayal cannot cancel what God spoke over your life.

SURVIVAL PRINCIPLE #2

STAY ALIVE IN THE PIT

Do not die emotionally in a season you were meant to grow through spiritually.

The pit is painful. But the pit is temporary.

SURVIVAL PRINCIPLE #3

REFUSE TO DRINK THE POISON

You survive betrayal by releasing bitterness before bitterness destroys you.

SURVIVAL PRINCIPLE #4

LET GOD USE THE STORM

What tried to break you may become the very thing God uses to build you.

GENESIS 50:20

Years later Joseph tells his brothers:

"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."

Joseph acknowledged the evil.

What happened hurt. What happened was wrong. What happened was sinful.

But Joseph had enough maturity to realize: God was still working while people were still wounding him.

God never wasted the pain.

And God will not waste yours either.