

Sunday, June 13, 2021

“The Triumph of Faith Sees God’s Purposes Overcome Godless Passions Even When We
Reside in the Pit”
Genesis 37:12-28

Sometimes we find ourselves around family, friends, or other associates who do not share our desire for high moral tone or a devout character. Some people we encounter on a regular basis are not only undevout, but are at times even ready to commit some vile acts of wickedness. Sometimes the transparency of our walk with the Lord angers others and puts us in an element of peril that we didn’t anticipate. So, when we find ourselves “in a pit”, literally or figuratively, how do we respond? Let us take lessons from Joseph!

I. Recognize the Effects of Attacking Evil.

A. Evil can display a very rapid downward spiral.

- Envy, then animosity, then object hatred, then atrocious murder. (Evil’s descent can be very steep.)

B. Hearts can become hardened so quickly that even consequences rarely change behavior.

- A deceitful story becomes falsehoods, then a conniving spirit, then totally deception. They try to cover up a crime with a lie.

C. Jealous envy can lead to sudden violence, (Stripping off his robe), and disregard for another. (A rope would have to have been lowered to Joseph for him to escape.)

D. Apathetic indifference often hurts as bad as a vicious assault. (v.25)

E. Half-hearted compromise may seem attractive but never substitutes for genuine commitment. (Reuben, Judah)

II. Respond by Applying an Authentic Answer When You Encounter the Pits.

A. Continue to live a faithful testimony.

B. Take an obedient, simplistic approach when around the godless. (v.14)

C. Fear God above the fear of men.

<You will be the object of evil and hatred occasionally.>

D. Recognize God’s providence supersedes any and all evil plans of Satan.

E. Keep a simple, sincere, trusting heart.