

YOU'RE HELPING ME BY HATING ME

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Genesis 37:1-10, 18-36

As a child, you didn't understand why you were to keep your wishes to yourself when you wished on a star or over your birthday cake. In the text, it shows you why you shouldn't share your dreams with just anybody. What makes separates you from other people and what makes them mad with you is that you have the nerve to have a dream when they can't see beyond the margins of mediocrity. They have no dreams or aspirations. Don't let the unwillingness of others to dream stop you from dreaming. You have to separate yourself from people who don't have the nerve to dream beyond where they are. In the text, if they had listened to the dream they would have been able to see their own blessings. People can't see their own blessing because they are too busy comparing what God has done for you to what God has done for them. You have to thank God for where He has brought you and what He has given you.

The devil never attacks you with people who you know don't like you because you already have your guard up with them. He comes after you with people you thought you could trust. Your deepest wounds are from people you trusted. If Joseph was never hated, he would have never made it to Egypt. If he had never made it to Egypt, his dream would never have come true. They helped him by hating him. Stand back and watch God flip the script and use what your haters meant for evil for good. They set you up for what God has for you. What God is going to teach you through the scheme of your haters is that who you are is not tied to what you have. You go broke by having more money in your closet than you do in your bank account because you think what you have makes you somebody. You haven't figured out that value is not extrinsic; it is intrinsic. You were born with value. When you know your value, it is not something that can be snatched from you.

They didn't hate Joseph because he was a dreamer. The text says they hated him more when he told his dream. The dream just manifested the hatred they tried to hide. Those who hate you didn't just start hating you. God brought their hatred for Joseph to the forefront so they couldn't perpetrate any longer. Why did they hate him? Because he had a coat, which was evidence that he walked in favor they didn't have. Some people don't like you because when you show up, you show up wearing God's favor. Don't take your coat off for anybody. When you live in favor, it becomes obvious to everybody.

In the bible, the order for listing genealogies starts with the patriarch, then lists the oldest son down to the youngest. However, in this text, Joseph, the youngest son, was listed first. His brothers' names weren't even mentioned. Favor is evident when God does things out of order. Look at yourself and

say, “Out of order.” In this out of order situation, the brothers decided to take Joseph’s coat so that he could no longer claim his favorite son status. However, after the coat was gone, Joseph’s name was still Joseph. You can take my stuff but you can’t take my name. What’s your name? You still have value because you still have your name.

God will put you in a predicament of faith. Can you trust what you saw when it contradicts what you see? You will have to decide whether you trust what you see or what you saw connected to what God said. You know what God has showed you but you also know where you are. Now you are confused because you don’t know whether or not what you saw is by divine design. Joseph saw himself as a leader over his brothers but what he was seeing was his brother throwing him in a pit.

Can you trust what God said when the events of your life don’t line up? When you are faithful through the contradictory seasons of life God will keep you in the contradiction of life. Joseph’s brothers threw him in a well that was a deep dry pit. If you throw me in a dry well that is deep where there is no water to catch me and I hit something as hard as concrete, then something ought to break. They threw you in thinking it would destroy you but it only bruised you. You were cut but not broken. The lies, rumors, divorce, debt, or unemployment didn’t break you. You look better than what you have been through and that’s enough to make you shout.

Joseph was in a dark, deep well. Can you be faithful to God in the dark seasons? Can you shout and praise Him with the same intensity when you are broke, unemployed, going through family drama, or your marriage is in trouble. Darkness is the threshold of God’s new activity. When things get dark, God is getting ready to do what He said He would do. God started creating when He stepped into the dark. In the movie theater when the lights go out, it is a sign that movie is getting ready to start. First, they show you the previews of movies that are “coming soon.” Whatever you been praying and fasting for is “coming soon.”

When your haters come against you God is going to introduce you to your secret weapon. Everybody except one person wanted to destroy Joseph’s dream and kill him. If it wasn’t for that one person, Joseph would’ve have died in the well and he wouldn’t have seen his dream come true. That person is Judah. If it weren’t for Judah, Joseph would never have survived the schemes of his haters. Judah means praise. When everything else was against you, praise saved your life. If you didn’t know how to praise Him, you would’ve lost your mind a long time ago. You better learn how to praise God. When the going gets rough and your haters rise up against you, you have to praise God. Are you ready to get out of your situation? Praise saved Joseph but didn’t pull him out. His brothers pulled him out when they heard Judah. God will pull you out, make a way, and open doors. He will fight your battles and make your enemies your footstool. Your prayer is that you endure the pit season until He sends someone to pull you out.

Peace

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