



GENESIS

Grace from the Beginning

16/17 February 2019

Vol. 41, No. 7

God Can Use Evil for Good

Genesis 37

English Services
(8 & 10:30 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)

Prelude
Call to Worship
Worship through Praise
Worship through Fellowship
Testimony
Scripture Reading
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Worship through Giving
Response Song
Benediction

Filipino Service
(3 n.h.)

Paghahanda
Tawag sa Pagsamba
Pagsamba sa Pag-awit
Pagkilala sa mga Bisita
Patotoo
Pagbasa ng Salita ng Diyos
Panalanging Pastoral
Pakikinig sa Salita ng Diyos
Pastor Sam Rendal
Pagsamba sa Pagbibigay
Tugon na Awit
Bendisyon

See inset inside for the **Traditional Service (Sat., 6 p.m.)** program.



God Can Use Evil for Good

Today's Message (16/17 November 2019) /
Genesis 37

WHEN WE
DECIDE TO
TRUST IN
GOD, HE
MAKES ALL
THINGS
RIGHT IN
HIS PERFECT
TIME.

When Moses first wrote this to the Israelites about to enter the Promised Land, it was meant to comfort them with the knowledge that God can use even evil human deeds to fulfill his plan of salvation. So we must see this story as being not just about Joseph, but about Jacob and the generations arising from him.

While sad in this initial outcome, we see how God uses the evil deeds of Joseph's brothers to begin fulfilling His plan, as revealed in Joseph's dreams, of making Joseph a ruler. Ultimately God uses the same evil deeds to begin fulfilling His plan of salvation for Jacob's clan, for Israel as a nation, and ultimately the spiritual children of Abraham—all believers.

God can make good come out of evil to accomplish His purposes. This is what we see not just in this initial installment in the story of Joseph, but in the big picture of this whole saga:

1. JACOB'S **SENSELESS FAVORITISM**:
THE SEEDS OF FAMILY DESTRUCTION
(vv. 1-11).

- Favoritism always leads to family dysfunction. Family destruction is not far behind (vv. 1-4).
- Truth spoken without love may lead to unpleasant consequences (vv. 5-11). As Ephesians 4:15 reminds us, "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ."

2. JOSEPH'S **STEADY FAITHFULNESS**:
HE OBEYS THE ERRAND TO FIND HIS
BROTHERS (vv. 12-17).

- While parental obedience and respect is among many things commended by God (Ephesians 6:1-3), don't be surprised when faithfulness

Traditional Service

(Saturday, 6:00 p.m.)

Prelude
Call To Worship
Worship Through Praise
Worship Through Fellowship
Testimony
Worship Through Giving
Scripture Reading
Preparatory Hymn
Pastoral Prayer
Worship in the Word
Pastor Larry Pabiona
Response Hymn
Benediction



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doesn't always give an immediately "good" result. Joseph's obedience to his father almost gets him killed!

Seemingly bad initial outcomes are never a valid basis to second-guess a correct decision. When we decide to unconditionally trust in God, He makes all things right in His perfect time.

3. THE BROTHERS' **SINFUL FAILURE**: THEY PLOT TO MURDER JOSEPH (vv. 18-24).

- We learn here what 1 John 3:12 reminds us about: "We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous."
- Reuben tries in vain to rescue Joseph (cf. v. 30), perhaps in a bid to make right what he did wrong in his past (Genesis 35:22). Similarly, our failures in the past don't need to define us, or keep us from doing what is right in the present (vv. 21-24).

4. GOD'S **SOVEREIGN FORESIGHT**: HE ALLOWS JOSEPH TO BE SOLD AS A SLAVE (vv. 25-36).

- God can use even wrong motives to fulfill His plan (vv. 25-28). This sale to the Ishmaelites was God's way of preserving Joseph, and eventually, his whole family.
- Jacob learns that we reap what we sow. God sometimes uses circumstances similar to our original sin when He is correcting us (vv. 29-35). It makes the lesson really "stick."
- The sovereign God often uses surprising circumstances and people to protect and preserve those He loves. See how Ishmael, the outcast son of Abraham, saves the great grandson of Abraham (v. 36).

FINAL THOUGHTS

You may sometimes feel, like what Joseph probably first felt—that things are so dark, that people are so evil, and that God is so absent from the picture. This story reminds us, that the sovereignty of God ensures that the actions of evil men turn out for the good of God's people, and the continuation of God's sovereign purpose. In other words, that God can make good come out of evil, to accomplish His purposes (Genesis 50:20).

How do you see God at work in your life? Can you trust Him even if it all, for now, seems dark? I pray that you do. It will be all worth it in God's perfect time ■

CREATIVE WITNESSES

Gospel proclamation is not just about the words that we say. It is also in the way we live and relate with people.

This means we have to make extra effort in being part of the daily lives of our neighbors, friends, and family. In fact, this is what we talk about as being a missional community—we are to live our lives as a “sent people,” not just gathered inside church buildings and homes, but penetrating every area of life and being creative in our witness.

Having a good relationship with the people around us help us know about the things they love and what concerns them. When we know those things we are able to share to them Jesus Christ as the one person we can trust in all things.

Where do we start then? Here are some suggestions* I found that we can do to build our relationship with our *oikos*:

1. Instead of eating lunch alone, intentionally eat with other co-workers and learn their story.
2. Get to work early so you can spend some time praying for your co-workers and the day ahead.
3. Organize a running/walking group before or after work.
4. Be the first person to greet new people.

5. Join a city club or league with your co-workers.
6. Be a regular in a café and get to know their staff.
7. Serve your neighbors by helping them in practical ways.
8. Do a prayer walk around your community.
9. Visit your co-workers in the hospital.
10. Volunteer with non-profits and spend time serving others.
11. Host a movie night and have a discussion after.
12. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to save gas.
13. Buy an extra dozen of donuts to share to your neighbors.
14. Start a neighborhood social media group.
15. Offer to host a dinner night at home.

These are just some suggestions and you can even think more creatively to create more opportunities of building relationship and being a creative witness of Jesus Christ ■

**suggestions taken from Simple Ways to be Missional by the Verge Network*

Ministry Opportunities + Announcements



JOURNEYING WITH GRACE

Naomi Women 4th Anniversary Celebration
February 23 (Sat), 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Please register at the Naomi booth for a token (that also serves as your invitation).
Contact **0998 569 4095** for more details.



THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES SEMINAR

Learn to express to and receive love from your partner thru the Five Love Languages Forum
February 23 (Sat), 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Fee: Php 100 (materials and snack included)
Contact **0917 532 7713** to register.



GGEX EXTREME

featuring Discovering What the Future Holds by Precept Ministries
All adults without GG are invited.
March 31 (Sun) 9:30-10:30 a.m.
at the Fellowship Hall
Free snack and material will be provided.
Registration is **free** but **limited to first 200**.
Register at the booth at the lobby.



CHURCH PLANTING IN CDO

GCF is intensifying our prayer as we ask God to direct our next steps toward starting a church in Cagayan de Oro. If you have a burden to pray for this disciple-making initiative, please text us the following YES <space> PRAY4CDO <space> your name, and send to **0917 532 7672**.

The flowers this week are given with praise and thanksgiving to God for His grace, mercy, faithfulness and blessings by Ramona Almirez, the Basilad family, the Valera family and the Messiah College. The flowers are also given in memory of the first death anniversary of Amante A. Jamnague. Please call 632 1354 to 56 for inquiries on how to participate in this ministry.

Join a DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUP

Growth Group Express

How to Make Decisions You Won't Regret (Lessons on David's Life)
Adults without GGs are invited!
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

God's Grace GG (G4)

Group for Couples
Fridays, 7:30-10:00 p.m.
Rm. B124

Life in Technicolor

support group for cancer patients and survivors
Every 3rd Sunday of the month
12:00-3:00 p.m., Seniors' Rm.

Overcomers

support group for those under any kind of addiction
Thursdays, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

*If you are interested in joining any of the small groups above, fill out the tear-off form of this bulletin, drop it in the offering bag, or submit it at the Growth Group booth at the lobby. For more information, you can text or call us at **0917 532 1921**.*

DMG Leaders' Assembly

Agenda: Oikos Workshop
February 24 (Sun), 12:00-3:00 p.m.
at the Fellowship hall

STEWARDSHIP REPORT / February 2019

FEBRUARY	Projected	Rcvd., Feb. 1-13	YEAR-TO-DATE	Projected	Rcvd., as of Feb. 13
General Funds	7,333,268	4,087,993	General Funds	16,943,674	12,659,130
Mission Support Fund	1,317,698	199,650	Mission Support Fund	2,635,395	1,354,350
Others	859,845	68,695	Others	1,558,394	889,389
TOTAL	9,510,811	4,356,338	TOTAL	21,137,463	14,902,869

God provides workers for the harvest

BY LOLIT MALANGIS



We are grateful and thankful for all He has done in our family and the ministry. At present, we have two ongoing outreaches, one in Taguig and another in Paopawan, Baras, Rizal.

Pastor Sonny preaches in Taguig once a month and Jonathan, our youngest son who recently graduated from Bible school, is helping out. Praise God for that because Pastor Sonny is also in-charge of preaching in Paopawan every Sunday.

After his preaching we go to a neighbouring town called Ungga to have Bible study at night. The Bible study is attended by up to ten farmer families over dinner. These farmers aren't Christians yet, so please pray that they will know more about Jesus and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.

Our prayer this year is to spend more time at Paopawan. There is a housing project here by the government to relocate informal settlers. The residents will come from different parts of Metro Manila, Antipolo, Pasig and others areas. We estimate that about 2,500 to 3500 families

will settle here. So far, we have about five ongoing home Bible studies, which are products of an evangelistic project we did two years ago. We knocked on doors and to whoever welcomed us, we offered to conduct Bible studies. It really is like a house church movement.

Every Saturday morning, we also have a growing children's ministry. So far, we 30 to 42 kids ages 4 to 12 years old. Pastor Sonny teaches the 9-12 year olds, and he is currently training a mother who also lives there to teach the younger ones. We also have a children's ministry in Taguig. We praise God because our young people have stepped up while we concentrated on the outreach in Paopawan. They all take turns in teaching the kids. Attendance has grown so much that we have had to turn down kids because they wouldn't be able to fit into our church building.

We now realize that God really provides workers to the harvest field. We were so worried about leaving behind the home bible studies that were established in Taguig but again, our church believers stepped up. Our Brothers Roger and Jun are now leading the home bible studies there. Glory to God.

This year, we decided to go back to our original church plant, Napocor in Pasig. We have allocated our Thursdays and Friday mornings for new home bible studies at Pasig. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please keep in touch with the Missional Disciplemaking Ministry for more details on how you can help our work ■

GCF PRAYER GATHERINGS *at the Chapel*

The GCF Hour of Prayer
Tuesdays, 6-7 a.m.

Midweek Prayer Service
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.

ON THE COVER: *The Coat of Many Colours* (1864-66) by British painter Ford Madox Brown (Wikimedia, public domain). In this painting, Joseph's brothers present Joseph's coat bloodied with animal blood, deceiving their father to believe that he was mauled by animals to death.



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Tel. Nos. 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80, 635 0082 to 83 | Fax No. 632 1357

Mobile No. 0920 961 2964, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

E-mail: email@gcf.org.ph • Website: www.gcf.org.ph

How may we SERVE YOU BETTER?

Fill-out this tear off form and drop it in an offering bag/box or at the Ministry Information Booth. Please check all that is applicable:

- I am a first-time guest.
- I prayed to receive Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord today.
- I would like to know how to become a Christian.
- I am interested in becoming a member of this church.
- I want to join a Growth Group.**
(Specify age group: _____)
(Specify group composition: _____)
- I want to start a Growth Group.
- I want to host a Growth Group.

Please share with us some information about yourself:

Name: _____

Age: ____ Landline no.: _____

Mobile no.: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Year of membership: _____

Name of Growth Group (if you already have one): _____

*Today is **16/17 February 2019**, and I attended the 8 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. (Sat) (encircle the time).*

Write below *any* inquiry or prayer item that you want to ask or share.

For hospital or house visitation, dedication service, or funeral service requests, please call or text 0917 532 7794.

God's Way to Heaven

THE GOSPEL

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."
(1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is holy and righteous: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty, the whole earth is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:3*). **He requires holiness of us as well:** "Be holy, for I am holy" (*1 Peter 1:16*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT MAN

Man is sinful: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (*Romans 3:23*).
Sin demands a penalty: "For the wages of sin is death" (*Romans 6:23*).

THE TRUTH ABOUT CHRIST

Christ is the expression of God's love for us: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (*Romans 5:8*). **Christ paid the penalty of our sins and died for sinners:** "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (*1 Peter 3:18*). **Through Christ, God offers man reconciliation:** "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (*Romans 10:9*).

PRAYER: *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe that you died on the cross in my place, to save me from my sins, and I accept you as my Savior, and the Master of my life forever. Amen.*

Need someone to talk to?

Visit the Emmaus Road Counseling Center at the GCF Mezzanine floor or contact 632 1354 to 56, 635 0078 to 80 or 0917 532 7794 for inquiries.