

Genesis 37:12–36

Trusting Only in Christ, Because Only His Plans and Perception Are Perfect

Main idea: We are unable to make our plans come about, or even to see with full completeness or accuracy what is happening in our circumstances. But, we may trust in Christ, Who powerfully brings about all of His perfect plan, according to His perfect wisdom and steadfast love. So, we may live with confidence in all that He has planned, and unswerving commitment to all that He has commanded.

¹² Then his brothers went to feed their father's flock in Shechem. ¹³ And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers feeding the flock in Shechem? Come, I will send you to them."

So he said to him, "Here I am."

¹⁴ Then he said to him, "Please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks, and bring back word to me." So he sent him out of the Valley of Hebron, and he went to Shechem.

¹⁵ Now a certain man found him, and there he was, wandering in the field. And the man asked him, saying, "What are you seeking?"

¹⁶ So he said, "I am seeking my brothers. Please tell me where they are feeding their flocks."

¹⁷ And the man said, "They have departed from here, for I heard them say, 'Let us go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

¹⁸ Now when they saw him afar off, even before he came near them, they conspired against him to kill him. ¹⁹ Then they said to one another, "Look, this dreamer is coming! ²⁰ Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; and we shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.' We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

²¹ But Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands, and said, "Let us not kill him." ²² And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him"—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father.

²³ So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. ²⁴ Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. ²⁶ So Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷ Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh." And his brothers listened. ²⁸ Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ Then Reuben returned to the pit, and indeed Joseph was not in the pit; and he tore his clothes. ³⁰ And he returned to his brothers and said, "The lad is no more; and I, where shall I go?"

³¹ So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. ³² Then they sent the tunic of many colors, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?"

³³ And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." ³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

³⁶ Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard.

Introduction

The illusion of control.

1. The Illusion of Our Plans

- a. Jacob's plan, Joseph's plan, Reuben's plan, Judah's plan, the brothers' plan
- b. God's plan
- c. Your plans? Your enemies' plan? God's plan

2. The Illusion of Our Perception

- a. Jacob's perception (1), Joseph's perception, Reuben's perception, Judah's perception, the Ishmaelites' perception, the brothers' perception, Jacob's perception (2)
- b. God gives us juuust a glimpse from His perception
- c. Your perception? Your enemies' perception? God's perception

Conclusion

We are unable to make our plans come about, or even to see with full completeness or accuracy what is happening in our circumstances. This is a dreadful truth for the unbeliever, for things are infinitely worse for them than they imagine. But, we may trust in Christ, Who powerfully brings about all of His perfect plan, according to His perfect wisdom and steadfast love. So, we may live with confidence in all that He has planned, and unswerving commitment to all that He has commanded.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

We come now to worship. God in the hearing of his word preached.

Turning in a copy of that word to Genesis chapter 37. And we have as our portion this morning. Versus 12 through 36.

And a psoriasis we hear the word of God read.

Genesis 37 verses 12 to 36. Let us take heed how we hear for again, these are the words of God. Then his brothers went to feed their fathers flock and shakum. And Israel said to Joseph are not your brothers feeding the flock and second. Come. I will send you to them.

So he said to him here I am then he said to him, please go and see if it is well with your brothers and well with the flocks and bring back word to me. So he sent him out of the valley of Hebron and he went to shakum now a certain man found him and there he was wandering in the field.

And the man asked him saying what are you seeking? So he said I am seeking my brothers, please tell me where they are feeding their flocks. And the man said they have departed from here for I heard them say let us go to death and. So Joseph went after his brothers and found them in Dothan.

Now when they saw him a far off even before he came near to them, they conspired against him to kill him. Then they said to one another look this dreamer is coming. Come there for let us now kill him and cast him into some pit and we shall say some wild beast has devoured him we shall see what will become of his dreams.

But Ruben heard it and he delivered him out of their hands and said let us not kill him. And Ruben said to them. Shed no blood but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness and do not lay a hand on him that he might deliver him out of their hands and bring him back to his father.

So it came to pass when Joseph had come to his brother's that they stripped Joseph of his tunic the tunic of many colors, that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat a meal.

Then they lifted their eyes and looked and there was a company of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead with their camels bearing spices balm and myrrh on their way to carry them down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers what prophet is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood come let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and let not our hand be upon him for he is our brother and our flesh.

And his brothers listened. Then many night traders passed by so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit and sold him to the Ishmaelites for 20 shekels of silver. And they took Joseph. To agent. Then Reuben returns to the pit. And indeed Joseph was not in the pit.

And he tore his clothes and he returned to his brothers and he said the lad is no more and I wear shall I go. So they took Joseph's tunic killed a kid of the goats and dipped the tunic in the blood. Then they sent the tunic of many colors and they brought it to their father and they said we have found this.

Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not? And he recognized it and said. It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn. Into pieces.

Then joke Jacob tore his clothes put sackcloth on his waist. And mourned for his son many days. And all his sons and all his daughters rose to come for him. But he refused to be comforted. And he said for I shall go down into the grave to my son in morning.

Thus his father wept for him. Now the Midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar. An officer of Pharaoh. And Captain of the guard. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word, we rejoiced to know that he promises to bless the preaching of it. Please be seated.

We often almost always struggle to be in control and sometimes we actually think that we are in control. But this idea that we are in control is in is an illusion. So one of the things that the young men have been studying a month by month and ecclesiastes that whatever we think we enjoy whatever we think we accomplish it's there one moment and disappears like the morning mist like a puff of steam and the plans of men are like that even those who seem to be.

In greatest control and psalm 146 the king who's plans are immediately carried out by whoever is standing and attending him but as soon as he dies Psalm 146 says his plans perish. And so don't put your trust in a king whose plans perish and one of the things that we see repeatedly in this passage is that the plans of different fakes Parish and not only are they unable to kill or accomplish or cause to be successful that which they had intended but we see in many cases highlighted in this passage how things are not as they seem.

Things are not as they seem several instances here of someone perceiving something thinking he sees and understands what's going on in the situation but the Lord having given us as this you have the in literature they call it the third person omniscient perspective. Well, there's only one who is third person on mission and that is God but he does give us more information and that's what's meant there than the the folks in the history here said, That we can see how Jacob and Joseph and Reuben and Judah and the Israelites how they can't see that there's so much here that they thought they saw and understood what was true and what was happening when they didn't and so the Lord is really as he brings us to this passage this morning confronting us with these two things the illusion of our plans and the illusion of our perception and really against the backdrop of those things the, Perfection of the Lord's plans and the Lord's perception.

So in the first place the illusion of our plans that that we have this idea of of what is going to happen and then it turns out very differently and you can very easily get an account of that just ask someone about how they came into their career or how they met their their husband or their wife or ask them how they got to Middle Tennessee and it's almost always isn't it full of well, here's what I had planned and here.

Is what God had planned. Our plans are illusory for Jacob in this chapter at sounds a little bit like when his mom said, you know run off to run off to your Uncle Laban and get yourself married and you saw cool off and I'll see you in a few days.

And as we remember he never saw his mother again. In this life and Jacob now sends Joseph off and he says, you know run off and see how your brothers are doing and bring me, you know, take this food to them and, Bring. Need back to report and I'll see you in a few days and by the end of the chapter Jacob thinks it has been repeated of course, we know differently but his plan was to send Joseph away for a few days and as far as Jacob knows by the end of this chapter, he never sees Joseph again and often in our in our plans we fail to take important things into account.

Think about the brothers off to whom Jacob was sending Joseph. Simeon and Levi brothers number two and three had led the entire plan in murdering pillaging and slaving. Ruben has recently gone up to one of Jacob's wives couch to use the Bible language and there has been building a hatred that we saw in the first 11 verses of this chapter.

They hated him. They hated him even more. They hated him even more. They envied him. Often. When our plans do not materialize it is simply because we are unable to make them come about but there is also built into God's providence this principle that God will not be mocked.

You reap what you sow what you sow. And it is very foolish of the Lord not the Lord sorry. It is very foolish of Jacob in this case to send Joseph a couple of days journey from Hebron to Shekham. To check on these brothers who hate him and already proven murderers.

Jacob's plan fails Joseph's plan fails. Joseph is not yet here that wise man who will understand by the Spirit of God with him how to manage the all of the resources of Egypt in the in the time of plenty and how best to operate as Pharaoh's representative in the time of want that will come in the following chapters.

In fact, when Joseph goes to Shechem and he just doesn't find his brothers. That you expect him to ask for directions. Head. He is like some of us. Who are either too proud or too foolish or the the sense and the text is that he's just a kid wandering around someone actually has to find him.

As a you look you'll you look lost, son. What are you looking for? And then he has to tell him he says, well yeah. I know you know where they they win. I heard them saying that. That they have gone to death and. So Joseph's plan to carry out what his father had sent him to do also is not very well executed and does not ultimately succeed.

Reuben's plan is a good plan. It is well-intentioned it is wise and even starts out fairly successful but Reuben heard it and he delivered him out of their hands. Sometimes our plans come partially true. And we think it's going well when we get we get maybe not complacent or proud but we have this idea that our plan is succeeding it was a good plan.

Reuben is able to prevail upon them he wins that first discussion and they do put him in the pit instead of killing him right away and it says verse 21 he delivered him out of their hands and it tells us that the plan was ultimately not just that they wouldn't kill him, but that verse 22 he might deliver Joseph out of their hands and, bring him back to his father, sometimes it's actually harder when your plan has started at first to succeed when in God's ways and merciful and inscrutable that means impossible to ultimately figure out and when in God's providence that partial success is still going to end in failure of your plan.

Sometimes when he has let us succeed a little bit and then in his wisdom, he takes it away it is even harder on us and we see that with Reuben don't we in verse 29 then Reuben returned to the pit and indeed Joseph not in the pit. And he tore.

His clothes there's a lot of tearing going on the tearing of the clothes and surely he has torn into pieces or being torn he is torn that's the way that without doubt or surely idea is expressed there in the doubling of the verb torn he is torn into pieces or being torn he is torn into pieces and the verse 34 Jacob tore his clothes.

His kind of like when you've got your. You know, these tearings are tearings of grief but we also see the tearing away as it were of what Reuben had intended in the saving of Joseph and often what we had intended gets torn up, sometimes the homeschooling mom has actually gotten rest and gotten up on time and has had her coffee in her quiet time in the morning and she has made her plan.

And about 35 seconds into that plan. Something has happened a phone call or maybe you're just been assigned to discipline a child and that wasn't on the sheet, but you have to do it because Jesus says so and. Your plan is torn away from you. And sometimes that earlier indication of success makes it a little bit harder when you have to tear up the plan as it were.

Jacob Flynn as an illusion. Jesus plan is an illusion. Reuben's plan is an illusion. Judas plan. He says to his brother's verse 26, what prophet is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood. Now, it may sound a little bit in verse 26 like Judah is kind of like on the Reuben track.

He's trying to keep he's trying to keep Joseph from getting killed and having his blood spilt. One of the things that will be thinking about especially when we get to chapter 39 is they measured the life expectancy of an Egyptian slave in weeks almost all of the those who are sold into slavery in Egypt at the time became field slaves not house slaves.

That's why that line at the end of our chapter is already a strike against Judas plan because he got he got sold to a guy who's not a crop farmer. He got sold to a guy who is an official and they're all. There are servants outdoors but as we'll find out when we get to chapter 39 as hoped for when we read that he's sold in Egypt to potify for an officer of Pharaoh Captain of the Guard there's hope now the that Joseph might be a house slave instead of a field slave, but Judah's plan is to kill his brother.

And not only to kill his brother but to make a profit. What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood. This is the kind of family that the Lord built his church out of the kind that were intent on murder but if you could add profitability to that murder, that would be even better for them.

The Bible does not flatter the church. It doesn't give us room to say we are you know, the church is the pot and we are the meat. Look at the the choicest ones from all the world. Now, we are not the choicest ones we're just been chosen and he chose those who weren't the choices to ones to show that all the glory all of the goodness belongs to is from him.

Judas plan here ultimately is failing it is of course the plan that is seeking to accomplish their success in the challenge. Joseph is going to dothan poor clueless Joseph 17 years old, but he's got his head in the clouds some of our 17 year olds get to be tall quickly enough that their heads appear to be in the clouds and they sometimes behave themselves in a way that proves it.

But Joseph is wandering around and has brothers figure out who he is before he figures out who they are and he had the element of surprise. He knew he was coming to check on them, they didn't know that he was coming to check on him, but they have better situational awareness.

That whatever distance it was when Joseph started to approach and you know, you could count him. 10 right we're assuming Benjamin is back back home with daddy, okay, there's 10 and that flock looks about the size of our flock that's probably them Joseph doesn't seem to have his wits about him enough to say that but his brother is like hmmm long sleeves bitch, that's Joseph.

Well they saw him far off even before he came near them they conspired against him to kill him and look at the purpose of their wanting to kill him it's not just because they hate him and it's not just for profit that comes later from Judah they said to one another look this dreamer is coming and then they make their plan and then they say at the end of verse 20 we shall see what will become of his dreams.

You see the juda plan is really the plan to stop the dreams from happening. It's kind of like the Isaac plan. Go and kill some meat and prepare for me savory food such as I love we will see what becomes of what the Lord said when the twins were still in the womb and that the older shall serve the younger.

Sometimes people actually know what God's plan is and resist it. If we just do X Y and Z and then our family will never have problems and if we get enough other families to do it, we will take over the nation and everything will be peace and joy and success until Jesus comes we will see with through many tribute what will come from through many tribulations, we must enter the kingdom of God or in this world, you will have trouble.

Stings a little more when we talk about our own plans. Then when we talk about Judas and the brothers plans, but you can't plan against God and expect to win. Look this dreamer is coming. We will see what will become of his dreams.

And yet.

The Lord Jesus has said He will build his church. And that the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it. There's literally nothing that the world can do. To stop the Lord Jesus from building his church and sometimes it's even the church that resists it. Because the church doesn't trust that Christ is building his church, so it doesn't use Christ's means and it doesn't emphasize Christ's priorities public worship in the means of grace and worship discipleship all day every day in the homes evangelism always being ready to give account for the hope that is in you.

And so it comes up with field of dreams church growth, if you build it, they will come and programs and you know, all of these things that get emphasized that Christ did not give us to do. But the church that he wants is the one that will be built.

And the other ones will end up on the scrap heap of history.

And then the brothers plan they think oh well if we just take his fancy little coat. That that daddy made him and we just dip it in this blood and we take it to daddy everything will be okay. Well done, turn out, okay. Because Joseph, sorry Jacob. Grieves for years.

He's just got the one daughter that we know of at the time but all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him the implication in verse 35 is that there is not just like the one attempt to come for him, but that over and over and over they try to comfort him.

They thought that they could fix the situation by coming up with an explanation for what happened to Joseph. But Jacob is so devastated by the loss of his son. That when he. The outcome of their trying to comfort him is that his grief wins. I shall go down to the grave to my son in morning.

I don't actually care so much about all you who are around me. I care about Joseph. They thought that they could get daddy's heart if they got rid of the competition. But daddy says, I'd rather be in the grave with him than here with you. I'm an agree for him until I get to him.

Sometimes our plans accomplish exactly the opposite. Of what we are trying to accomplish. That's exactly what happens here, isn't it? God's plan. Is that Joseph would rise not just to the second person in Egypt really the first person need to. She's gonna wear the he's gonna wear the signet.

He will be as Pharaoh to the rest of Egypt and the rest of that entire region of the world. For a couple of decades. God's plan was to use Joseph before whom they bowed to save them to use the one whom they wanted to kill. To save them.

God's plan is to save us. Through Judah.

Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son of God. When He adds humanity to Himself when He takes on another nature. He is going to do it through the line of the man who in the passage before us this morning. Says, you know, we don't actually have to get the blood literally on our hands and we could turn a prophet while doing it.

Sometimes we come to Old Testament narrative passages and we do a little WWJD on it. What would Jesus do? But sometimes the passage is telling us for what kind of person did Jesus die. And it's the Judah kind of person.

As we'll see next week. Lord willing thinking about Judah and Tamar. You're going to get uglier for Judah before it gets better. They get better later. But as gonna get uglier. This is the kind of one through whom God sent. His Son.

God's plan is to save and that's what He's doing here. That's when we need to turn around we need to look at our our plans, but we are trying to do and if your plan is to honor God, then that can't be defeated can it? And this will we were talking about in Ecclesiastes yesterday morning young men.

That if your plan is to honor God by trusting him believing what he says following what he commands pursuing faithfulness. Then everything else that you hoped would come from that that can fail but the honor of God that you aimed at in it can never fail. Because he did bring his son through Judah and Jesus did live a perfect obedient life that none of us could live but is required of every one of us and he offered himself a sacrifice for sin and God said that pleases me all of this obedience pleases me and the father is most pleased in that greatest act of obedience the son offering himself up a sacrifice for sinners.

Jesus even in our passage this morning saying to James and John two of the three of his inner circle, by the way. You don't know what manner of spirit you are. Because I did not come this time to call down fire like Elijah did upon the prophets of bail, they knew a truth about Jesus.

But he said that I have come to save. Not to destroy. That's why there is history at all. You see the the the whole reason that things continue after the fall the whole reason that. Instead of and their eyes closed in death it was and their eyes were opened and they realized that they were naked is because God intended to save through Jesus Christ because he would display his mercy while he patiently bore with those who were being prepared for destruction, he would display his mercy by those whom he was preparing for everlasting blessedness.

And so from Genesis 3 to Genesis 37 and from Genesis 37 to the cross and from the cross to today and from today until Jesus comes back the only reason there is any intervening history between sin and the destruction of sinners is because God is saving through Jesus Christ.

With just a little slice of the plan in Genesis 37, everyone's got plans here. Jacobs got plans and Joseph Scott plans and ribbons got plans and Judas got plans and the brothers bringing the the the bloodstained garment back to Jacob they had plans. Even Jacob's plan to grieve until he dies ultimately gets foiled, doesn't it?

But it is the plan of God to save through Jesus Christ that is being carried out in Genesis 37 and it's the plan of God to save through Jesus Christ, that is being carried out in 2020. Please stop telling 20/20 jokes. This is a year in the providence of the saving God.

And yes, they're all kinds of people with all kinds of plans and they may even for a while have a measure of success. But with ASAP in Psalm 73, we say truly you set them in slippery places all at once they are destroyed.

Because what God is doing in 2020 is saving sinners through faith in Jesus Christ. And when we serve him and we seek his glory in our household and we rise up and we serve him and we seek his glory in the state and we rise up and we reform and we seek his glory in the church.

We may have. More or less success in any of those efforts according to his wisdom and his grace to sustain it and we seek for him to do it because we want that to be put on display. But we know that however he ultimately decides to do it, he will be glorified.

And so it is not our plans ultimately in the details. Or the enemy's plan certainly which must be devastated. But it is God's plan that succeeds. In the second place the illusion of our perception. I don't know what Jacob thought his family was like.

But he certainly had a very poor understanding of what his sons and their interaction was or would be.

Or Joseph's perception. Thinking that he was just on an errand for daddy and that he was going to come out and. Perhaps even you can think of him kids when they're pulling him out of the pit. Probably you have been somewhere for about 30 seconds hold by yourself. I got cut off from my family once shopping at Kmart I don't even know if Kmart still exists but they had this little station kind of in the middle of the store where you could get the frozen slushies or those I'm sure they're cheap now, but to me, they were food that fell from heaven it was manna there's Italian sub things and I thought that if I could be, near their long enough that I would kind of like attract them to eventually wear them down and get it.

One day. They decided that they were just going to keep doing their shopping and I don't know how old I was five six something like that and. It took me about 15 seconds to go from trying to get a treat to have they left me forever. And you can think of Joseph sitting in that pit.

And his brothers go off they get out of earshots so that they can they could discuss among themselves and they left me here forever and then they come and they lift him out of the pit his haha yeah that was a good joke, that was really funny one guys.

You know, you don't got you don't understand what's happening for actually selling you to the Ishmaelites.

You may think things are getting better. When they're actually getting a whole lot worse. One of the main points of this is that you and I don't understand we can't see everything about even the current situation. We don't know how all the pieces fit together for a moment in time, let alone how all the moments and time fit together with one another.

Jacob couldn't see it. Joseph couldn't see it. Reuben thought his his plan was succeeding. He couldn't see it. Judah thought he was succeeding and stopping in the dream he couldn't see it. The Ishmaelites probably thought. Here they are they're one of the rejected brothers remember Abraham gave gifts to to the sons of the concubines that would be Ishmael and all the sons of Kura and he sent them off yeah get away but his inheritance he gave entirely to Isaac and here the Ishmaelites you don't think the Ishmaelites know who these guys are.

This is the straggling little group that those who have descended from Isaac and we are the great big clan of those who have descended from from Ishmael and we have all of these things we carry on a very profitable trade between where we are and and Egypt in fact in order for Judah to make a little bit of profit off of Joseph being sold into slavery he gets you know, the scraps of what the Ishmaelites have.

They probably thought that they were enjoying according to their perception. The superiority of their side.

Ultimately the Jacob's perception is the one that is most called out by the text. He says it is my son's tunic he was right about that. A wild beast has devoured him. Wrong. Torn being torn Joseph is to pieces or without doubt. Joseph is torn to pieces and then that little comment at the end of the chapter.

Now the midianites had sold him in Egypt to Potiphar an officer of Pharaoh and Captain of the guard.

We do not see. What God sees. And even if we saw it, we wouldn't understand it. God gives us just a glimpse of this perception in verse 36 and knowing the end of the story, of course. We come back and we say, ah. That's what God is doing here.

What do you see happening? Or what do you think you see happening? You may be right about a lot of it. Probably not right about very much. Enemies. May be right a lot about a lot of what they think they see they're probably not right about very much. The Lord knows exactly what he sees.

He knows exactly what he is doing. And he has given us his perception in his word. If we were wise we'd be like Jesus. Jesus didn't entrust himself to men. Why? He knew what was in their hearts. How? Well, yes, he had the fullness of his spirit. He could see what men were thinking in their hearts like he saw in our loot reading but he is also got the scriptures which tell us what's in men's hearts.

Man's heart is deceitful above all things. Oh well. I guess I don't know your heart. You could be good. Oh, no, you couldn't. Because this is desperately wicked. God knows my heart is not a happy thought. Unless you are trusting in the God who knows your heart and give Christ for you anyway because of what you're like in that heart.

So that he would. Because of what Christ has done make your heart like his own. So, what do we see Genesis 37 that we are unable to make our plan succeed. And we are unable to see either with completeness or accuracy what is happening in our circumstances? Which means that for the unbeliever things are infinitely worth.

Than they imagine. If you do not belong to God by faith in Jesus Christ. This is the best that it will ever get for you. You might already understand that you are miserable. You might be self-deceived to think that you are not. But God is delaying the destruction of sinners while he saves those who trust in Jesus Christ.

And whatever you have planned will evaporate and whatever you think you see will evaporate. When the sky is opened and they see the Lord Jesus. Those who laughed and mocked and opposed suddenly are crying for mountains to fall on them and hide them from the lamb in his wrath.

But if you do trust in Jesus Christ. Things are infinitely better for you than you imagine. The best you ever get in this life as a Christian is actually the least. Not to be compared. With the glory and the blessedness that it is coming. And are your light and momentary afflictions are not to be compared with the eternal weight of glory?

That is being produced in you. So whether you see that which is discouraging or tempted to be devastated by it that whether you see that which is encouraging. Does infinitely better than you can imagine because you may trust in Christ? His powerfully bringing about all that he has planned and he has planned it in everlasting love and he is carrying it out in perfect wisdom in which he sees all things and how they fit together and how they fit into what he is doing.

So if you're a believer in Jesus Christ, you come to Genesis 37, you don't say oh well what I plan can never work and I don't even know what's going on. I guess nothing's worth it. No you come and you say my redeemer is carrying out his plan and he sees it all perfectly.

And with confidence and joy and zeal I can do what he has assigned to me. And even if it seems to be failing I can keep doing it with confidence and joy and zeal because he is not failing. And so you may live with confidence in all that he has planned.

And with an unswerving commitment to do all that he has commanded you. And when you stumble. You can continue to rest upon him. He will grant you the repentance just as he granted you all things together with him. Let's pray.

Father we thank you for this portion of your word. We thank you for the clues that you have given us in the passage to be able to look in this part of your word as a mirror. In which we

can see ourselves and our inability. And we thank you that you give it to us even better as a mirror as a window in which we can see Christ, this is among those passages.

Of which he says it as they that speak of me. We pray that you would help us to see throughout your word. You are saving sinners through Christ, but Lord grant that we would bring that home to our daily lives. That your spirit would remind us that your perfect will is being carried out your salvation is being carried out.

And we pray that you would give us confidence in Christ. And a commitment to Him that we wouldn't be distracted. By discouragements. Or diverted by pride but that you would make us devoted to following Him. We ask it in His name and for His glory. Amen