

FATHER'S FAVORITE SON

Introduction: It is not good for a father or mother to have a "pet" child, for by showing constant favors to him he will alienate the affections of the rest, both from him and the parents. ~~Once~~ A little child stood outside the parents' bedroom door one morning knocking for admission. The father answered, "Is that you, Pet?" A sorrowful little voice answered, "No, it's only me." And that was the last of "Pet" in that family.

I. The Identity of this son.

1. The story of Joseph
2. Genesis 37:3, "Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children."
3. Unlike many family "pets" Joseph was not brought up to idleness. "He was feeding the flock with his brethren."

II. The Cause of the Father's Favoritism.

1. He was beloved of his father partly because of his mother's sake.
2. Joseph may have loved his father more than his brothers did, and he may have waited on him and cared more for him.
3. Joseph undoubtedly had many very commendable things about his character. He is just about the only Bible character, except Jesus, who has no sin recorded against him.

III. The Result of this, is that his brothers hated him. Why???

1. Their envy of Joseph's superiority.
 - a. He must have had a keener spiritual conscience.
 - b. He brought unto his father their evil report.
 - c. Their wicked actions were repugnant to him.

~~x22 Resentment x for x their x father's x partiality x~~

- d. This shows the evil of envy.
- e. Prov. 27:4, "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"
- f. Like a wild tornado which, as it sweeps along, destroys the loveliest flowers, and leaves the garden desolate as the wilderness, it has cut down many a youth of promise, and turned many a peaceful home into a scene of sadness and distress.

3. When Sir Walter Scott was a boy at school he tried very hard to win a certain prize but failed because of the superior memory of one of his classmates....

2. Their resentment of their Father's Partiality.

IXXa. If they could not receive favours they didn't want Joseph to receive them.

b. They understood it as a reflection on them personally.

3. Their jealousy of what was revealed in Joseph's dreams.

a. They referred to him contemptuously as "this dreamer".

b. This shows the world's contempt for persons who are inspired of God.

IV. Notice the future life of this son Joseph.

1. Sold to the Ishmaelites and by them as a slave to Potiphar in Egypt.

2. Cast into prison.

3. Brought out when he interpreted Pharaoh's dreams, and was made prime minister of the kingdom of Egypt.

4. His brothers came to him to buy grain to eat in a time of famine.

5. Joseph forgives them and sends for his father and family to come from the land of Canaan to Egypt to be preserved alive during the famine.

CONCLUSION: This whole narrative directs our attention to One greater than Joseph. The love of the Father to the Lord Jesus immeasurably exceeds every love of which we have any experience. Of all the sons of God, Jesus is certainly the chiefest among ten thousand and the altogether lovely in the sight of his eternal Father. The Obedience and love of Jesus was the comfort of Jehovah's heart when grieved with the ingratitude and vileness of the whole human family. He was a perfect Son, the only perfect Son the world ever beheld. Throughout his whole life He was, like Joseph, separate from His sinful brethren, and mourned with His Father over their wickedness. The Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." He viewed with the highest satisfaction every step of his obedient walk on earth.

Oh, that He could say of all of us his other children, "I am also well pleased with you."