



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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## Prayer

Lord, I want to forgive those who have done so much wrong by speaking lies and nonsense about me. I don't understand why they have spoken those lies, but now people are listening to the garbage they have told about me. Rather than respond in anger and speak a bunch of negative words that won't help anyone, I choose today to speak words of kindness and blessing over those who have tried to hurt me. Lord, I ask You to bless them, change them, help them, and lead them into a higher way of life. In the meantime, I am asking You to use this hurtful situation to bring about needed changes in me, in Jesus' name I ask it. Amen.

## Scripture

Genesis 37:1-36 (AMP)

1 SO JACOB dwelt in the land in which his father had been a stranger and sojourner, in the land of Canaan. 2 This is the history of the descendants of Jacob and this is Jacob's line. Joseph, when he was seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; the lad was with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's [secondary] wives; and Joseph brought to his father a bad report of them. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him a [distinctive] long tunic with sleeves. 4 But when his brothers saw that their father loved [Joseph] more than all of his brothers, they hated him and could not say, Peace [in friendly greeting] to him or speak peaceably to him. 5 Now Joseph had a dream and he told it to his brothers, and they hated him still more. 6 And he said to them, Listen now and hear, I pray you, this dream that I have dreamed: 7 We [brothers] were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright, and behold, your sheaves stood round about my sheaf and bowed down! 8 His brothers said to him, Shall you indeed reign over us? Or are you going to have us as your subjects and dominate us? And they hated him all the more for his dreams and for what he said. 9 But Joseph dreamed yet another dream and told it to his brothers [also]. He said, See here, I have dreamed again, and behold, [this time not only] eleven stars [but also] the sun and the moon bowed down and did reverence to me! 10 And he told it to his father [as well as] his brethren. But his father rebuked him and said to him, What is the meaning of this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers actually come to bow down ourselves to the earth and do homage to you? 11 Joseph's brothers envied him and were jealous of him, but his father observed the saying and pondered over it. 12 Joseph's brothers went to shepherd and feed their father's flock near Shechem. 13 [One day] Israel said to Joseph, Do not your brothers shepherd my flock at Shechem? Come, and I will send you to them. And he said, Here I am. 14 And [Jacob] said to him, Go, I pray you, see whether everything is all right with your brothers and with the flock; then come back and bring me word. So he sent him out of the Hebron Valley, and he came to Shechem. 15 And a certain man found him, and behold, he had lost his way and was wandering in the open country. The man asked him, What are you trying to find? 16 And he said, I am looking for my brothers. Tell me, I pray you, where they are pasturing our flocks. 17 But the man said, [They were here, but] they have gone. I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. 18 And when they saw him far off, even before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. 19 And they said one to another, See, here comes this dreamer and master of dreams. 20 So come on now, let us kill him and throw his body into some pit; then we will say [to our father], Some wild and ferocious animal has devoured him; and we shall see what will become of his dreams! 21 Now Reuben heard it and he delivered him out of their hands by saying, Let us not kill him. 22 And Reuben said to them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit or well that is out here in the wilderness and lay no hand on him. He was trying to get Joseph out of their hands in order to rescue him and deliver him again to his father. 23 When Joseph had come to his brothers, they stripped him of his [distinctive] long garment which he was wearing; 24 Then they took him and cast him into the [well-like] pit which was empty; there was no water in it. 25 Then they sat down to eat their lunch. When they looked up, behold, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites [mixed Arabians] coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum [of the styrax tree], balm (balsam), and myrrh or ladanum, going on their way to carry them down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said to his brothers, What do we gain if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites [and Midianites, these mixed Arabians who are approaching], and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brothers consented. 28 Then as the Midianite [and Ishmaelite] merchants were passing by, the brothers pulled Joseph

## Worship Music

[Grace Tells Another Story-Mercy Me](#)

[I Know-Mercy Me](#)

[If I Could Sit With You Awhile-Mercy Me](#)

[Give US Clean Hands-Mercy Me](#)

[Lord I Life Your Name On High-Mercy Me](#)

## Radio Stations

[KWVE ...Calvary Chapel](#)

[KLOV](#)

## Bible Study Sites

[Chuck Smith Through The Bible](#)

[Bob Coy/Teachings](#)

[Mike MacIntosh](#)

[Jon Courson](#)

[Biblos.com](#)

[Billy Graham](#)

[Charles Stanley](#)

[David Wilkerson](#)

[Greg Laurie](#)

[Virtue for Women-Cathe Laurie](#)

up and lifted him out of the well. And they sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph [captive] into Egypt. 29 Then Reuben [who had not been there when the brothers plotted to sell the lad] returned to the pit; and behold, Joseph was not in the pit, and he rent his clothes. 30 He rejoined his brothers and said, The boy is not there! And I, where shall I go [to hide from my father]? 31 Then they took Joseph's [distinctive] long garment, killed a young goat, and dipped the garment in the blood; 32 And they sent the garment to their father, saying, We have found this! Examine and decide whether it is your son's tunic or not. 33 He said, My son's long garment! An evil [wild] beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. 34 And Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned many days for his son. 35 And all his sons and daughters attempted to console him, but he refused to be comforted and said, I will go down to Sheol (the place of the dead) to my son mourning. And his father wept for him. 36 And the Midianites [and Ishmaelites] sold [Joseph] in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain and chief executioner of the [royal] guard.

#### Genesis 37:2 to 50:26

The 11th and final document composing Genesis contains the story of Joseph and Israel's migration to Egypt. Joseph, probably more than any of the Patriarchs, was a type or symbol of the people of Israel, who struggled with God and men and yet, with God's blessing, overcame all circumstances. Joseph was a source of blessing to all the nations ( 12:2-3 ). Through Joseph, Abraham's family became a great nation in Egypt. This became the backdrop for the great exodus described in the next book of the Bible.

#### Genesis 37. Joseph Sold into Egypt

The richly ornamented robe ( v. 3 ; kjv , coat of many colors) was a badge of favoritism, possibly indicating Jacob's intention to make Joseph heir to the birthright.

Reuben, Jacob's firstborn, was natural heir to the birthright; but he was disqualified because of his illicit relationship with one of his father's concubines ( 35:22 ; 49:3-4 ; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2 ). Simeon and Levi, second and third in line of succession ( Genesis 29:31-35 ), were passed over because of their crime at Shechem ( 34:25-30 ; 49:5-7 ). Judah, the fourth son, was next in line, and the family may have expected that the birthright would go to him.

But Joseph, though Jacob's 11th son, was Rachel's firstborn. Rachel was Jacob's best-loved wife, and Joseph was his favorite son ( 37:3 ). So the robe looked suspicious. And Joseph's dreams of his own ascendancy ( vv. 5-10 ) aggravated the situation.

Thus Judah and Joseph appear to have been rivals for the birthright. This may explain Judah's active part in selling Joseph into slavery ( vv. 26-27 ). The rivalry between Judah and Joseph passed to their descendants. The tribes of Judah and Ephraim (Joseph's son) were contenders for supremacy. Judah took the lead under David and Solomon. Then, under the leadership of Ephraim, the Ten Tribes seceded ( 1 Kings 12 ). (Halley's Bible Handbook; Hency Halley: 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentary; page 123-124)

Joseph's Brothers Sell Him; V 3 Jacob showed favoritism to Rachel's son, Joseph, by giving him the coat of many colors, signifying that he had chosen Joseph for his heir. VV 5-9 Joseph's prophetic dream that his brothers would bow down to him made them even angrier. V 12 Shechem was about 90 miles from Hebron. They had to go far from home to find pastures for their flocks. V 22 Reuben, the eldest child, planned to rescue Joseph and send him back to his father. V 28 Joseph is a type of Christ: hated and sold by his brothers but eventually becoming their ruler.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; Chuck Smith; 2005; Commentaries; page 18)

God gave Joseph dreams of greatness, but in his zeal and excitement, Joseph unwisely told his dreams to his brothers, who did not share his enthusiasm (see Genesis 37:5). As a result, they sold him as a slave, and he had to endure some hard years and difficult experiences. During those years, though, God developed wisdom in Joseph and thereby prepared him for his life's call. Just as He did for Joseph, God is able to develop in you whatever you may lack today so that you can fulfill His purpose for your life.

While we are waiting on God, it is important for us to take our positions and stay faithful. Then, like Joseph, God will raise us up in His timing (see Genesis 39:2-5). Be faithful as you wait on God, do your work well, and people will see that God's hand is upon you for good. The Everyday Life Bible.

#### Blessing People Who Deliberately Try To Make Trouble for You

Romans 12:14;..It is very easy to bless those who bless you and make you happy, but how are you going to respond to people who persecute you and try to deliberately injure you? Romans 12:14 says that you are to "bless them which persecute you...."

One day many years ago, my associate brought me the national newspaper of the country where we lived, and to my horror, there was a terrible article about me right on the front page! No one could miss the article because it was so huge—and it was filled with outrageous lies. The article contained nothing more than pure nonsense. However, I soon became very upset thinking about what people would think of me after reading that article. I knew that people tend to believe whatever is printed in the newspaper. The longer I thought about it, the more upset I became. I especially became infuriated with the female reporter who had written this barrage of nonsense and lies. I wondered how I should respond. Should I put an advertisement in the newspaper to answer the allegations made about me and my ministry? Should I demand that the newspaper fire the woman who wrote this about us? What action should I take in response to this ugly development?

Adding to my shock regarding the article was the fact that the woman who wrote it had sat in my office and told me how blessed she was by our ministry. Only after reading what she wrote did I learn that she had completely lied to me. Nevertheless, rather than give in to my flesh and start ranting and raving about what she had done, I decided to obey the apostle Paul's instructions in Romans 12:13, where he says, "Bless them which persecute you...."

The word "bless" is the Greek word eulogeo, a compound of the words eu and logos. The word eu means good or well and depicts any positive emotion. It is where we get the word euphoric. The second part of the word eulogeo is the word logos, which simply means words. But when these two words are compounded into the word eulogeo, it means to say good or positive things. The word eulogeo is where we get the word eulogy, which is the sermon preached at a funeral. It is supposed to be a time when good words are spoken in remembrance of the person who died.

So when Paul tells us to "bless them which persecute you...", he is literally telling us that we are always to return a blessing for a curse, speaking only good words about those who wish to harm us. Taking this route must be hard on the flesh, for the Greek tense describes a continual action, implying that we must speak well of these people again and again and again. Our flesh may rise up to point the finger of accusation at someone and charge him with dishonest and wrong conduct. But that's when we have to tell our flesh to be quiet! Instead of falling into the mode of accuser in an attempt to defend ourselves, we are to take the more godly route of blessing those who persecute us.

Paul says that when we are in these situations, we are to "curse not." The word "curse" is the Greek word kataoimai, which simply means to verbally curse. In the ancient world, it was believed that when a person spoke good words about someone else, those words conveyed a blessing on that other person's life. Conversely, people believed that when someone spoke curses over another person, his very words caused curses to come upon that person's life. This ancient belief in the power of words is actually borne out in the Scriptures. We should never forget the power that is contained in the words we speak. Proverbs 18:21 makes it very clear that the power of life and death is in the tongue. So rather than get upset with the unbeliever who wrote that ugly article, I felt instructed of the Lord to start speaking blessings into her life. I realized that this journalist wrote that kind of article because she was lost and needed the Lord. So what good would it do if I allowed myself to speak curses over her life? It was time for me to rise to the occasion by deciding to "... bless, and curse not"!

So I started blessing this woman, thanking God for her and believing God to do something truly remarkable to make her life better and more blessed. As it turned out, that horrible article would be the last article of its kind about us to ever appear in that national newspaper. I am convinced that our decision to "... bless, and curse not" caused God's power to be released in the spirit realm, preventing any future negative press from being printed about us in that particular nation.

If someone has done something bad or injurious to you, I realize how tempting it is to retaliate by saying a lot of bad things about the offender. But in the end, this fleshly reaction won't help anyone. You never have to fall into this trap that causes you to be bitter and that releases a lot of negative words and curses on those who wronged you. You can take a redemptive approach—choose to speak only good about those who have sought to do you harm. If you'll take the right approach to this hurtful situation, your actions can release enough supernatural power to keep this type of event from ever being replicated in the future. But if you respond wrongly, it probably won't be too long until you're facing the same situation again.

Never underestimate the importance of how you react to those who persecute you. Your words of blessing and forgiveness can put to bed forever all the past wrongs ever committed against you. On the other hand, your words of retaliation can reignite the fire of opposition so that the same kind of opposition keeps reoccurring again and again.

That's why it's so important that you never forget—you must continually be careful with your words!

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Can you recall a time when you were being verbally persecuted by someone who wanted to do you harm, but the Holy Spirit led you to refrain from speaking evil of that person and to speak only good about him or her?

If you do recall such an event in your life, what was the result when you obeyed the Spirit of God and stayed upbeat and positive about your accuser?

Can you think of a time when you said a lot of evil words about someone and those words eventually came to pass? Did you later regret that you had said those words?

Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)  
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, page 63-65)