

Day 23 of “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

Jan. 23, 2016

- Genesis 37 – Joseph, his dream, and his brothers.
- Matthew 26:57-27:31 – The trials and mocking of Jesus Christ.
- Ecclesiastes 9:1-6 – God, fate, and death.

Reflections:

1. Genesis 37. The theme of suffering as a test of character is predominant in this chapter, both for Joseph and his brothers. Though Joseph was righteous he was not kept from suffering. He was preserved by his faith through it. In the end Joseph could acknowledge that God meant it all for good (Gen. 50:20). God brings good out of evil and suffering. Though the wicked may prosper for a time, the righteous hold fast to their integrity because there is a higher, more enduring principle of life, namely life with God. The wise recognize that the Lord God is sovereign and He orders the affairs of His people. At times God’s ways seem unfair and paradoxical, but if endured by faith they bring blessings to the righteous. God always brings a greater good out of tragedy for those who turn to Him.
2. Matthew 26:57-27:31. The ugliness of man, including believers like Peter, is illustrated in the various fiendish attitudes toward the perfect and loving eternal Son of God who has joined Himself to human nature. There are a million ways God could have had Jesus die for our sins. God’s orchestrated these events to reveal the ugliness of sin. This section is God’s theater to reveal man’s love for sin and His rebellion against the goodness of God.
 - **Apologetics. Problem:** Matthew declares that Judas hanged himself. However, in Acts he fell and his body burst open. **Solution:** These accounts are not contradictory, but mutually complementary. Judas hung himself exactly as Matthew affirms that he did. The account in Acts simply adds that Judas fell, and his body opened up at the middle and his intestines gushed out. This is the very thing one would expect of someone who hanged himself from a tree over a cliff and fell on sharp rocks below.
2. Ecclesiastes 9:1-6. One must acknowledge that all is in God’s hands. Not even the righteous can gain control over God and the issue of death. In other words, death is equally certain regardless of how righteously or wickedly one lives. Though death is certain, man has this universal tendency to fill his life with a thousand passions and squander the little time he has here. His comment about the dead remembering nothing refers to the vantage point of earth—a corpse knows nothing. To be sure, the Bible does teach that there is consciousness with God after death, 2 Cor. 5:8.

In ‘Ehyeh,

Pastor Don