

all for good  
the story of Joseph in Genesis



Genesis 48-49

---

# Introduction

---

- God blesses all of His people, not just the ones the world sees as important.
- Jacob's life has come to a close.
- In these last moments, he goes about blessing his sons.
- This is a good parallel to the reality that God blesses us and has adopted us into His family.

# Genesis 48

---

# God adopts us into His family

---

- At the end of his life, Jacob blesses all of his sons, but he blesses the two oldest sons of Joseph (Gen. 48) before he blesses his own sons (Gen. 49).
- He not only gives them a blessing, he adopts them as his own sons, as heirs with their uncles, Reuben and Simeon and the others (verse 5).
- Through his blessing, Jacob brings Joseph's half-Egyptian sons back into the fold of Israel's inheritance.

---

# God adopts us into His family

---

- Just as Jacob adopts Joseph's sons into his family by faith (Hebrews 11:21), God adopts us into His family as His sons and daughters by grace through faith (John 1:12–13).
- When we are adopted as sons into the family of God, we not only share in the love of God the Father in a special way (1 John 3:1), we share in the inheritance of Christ, which is not just a share in the land of Israel, but the kingdom of God (Hebrews 9:15).

---

# God adopts us into His family

---

- Paul tells us that we are no longer slaves to sin (Galatians 4:6–7).
- We are sons, who will receive a full inheritance.
- But many of us are living our Christian lives as if we were slaves rather than sons, both in the way we see our relationships with God and the way we view the kingdom.
- We see our lives as an obligation to God, as if we are working to pay off our debt, rather than seeing the amazing grace of a debt already paid.

---

# God often chooses the overlooked

---

- Joseph thought his father was confused (verses 17–18).
- But in response to Joseph’s concern, Jacob simply says, “I know, my son, I know.” I’m not confused. I’m doing this on purpose.
- Jacob knew of the destinies, not just of these sons themselves, but of their entire tribes in the future (verse 19).
- God often chose the younger son (Abel over Cain, Jacob over Esau, Moses over Aaron). This is a recurring theme throughout Scripture.

---

# God often chooses the overlooked

---

- God delights in using weak, overlooked and imperfect people, filling them with His Spirit and empowering them to do His will.
- Moses was not eloquent; he was slow of speech and of tongue (Exodus 4:10).
- Rahab was a prostitute (Joshua 2:1).
- David was just a shepherd boy, the runt of his family (1 Samuel 16:11).
- Peter, James, and John were just run-of-the-mill fishermen (Matthew 4:18–22).
- “God does not call the equipped. He equips the called.”

# Genesis 49

---

# No one is beyond God's redemption

---

- Reuben – Jacob proclaims that Reuben has lost his birthright as the firstborn son (Genesis 49:3–4).
- Remember, we saw that Reuben's act with Bilhah was not only a betrayal to his father, but a challenge to his father's authority and a grasp for power.
- Instead, it had the opposite effect, and his father gave his firstborn status to his favored son, Joseph, through his two sons (Genesis 48).

---

# No one is beyond God's redemption

---

- Simeon and Levi – Simeon and Levi were not twins, but they are listed together because they were partners in crime (Genesis 34).
- This curse is certainly referencing their great sin in killing all of the Shechemite men out of revenge for their sister Dinah's honor (Genesis 49:6), but that doesn't mean it was the only time they showed violence.
- Note, though, that Jacob doesn't curse Simeon and Levi themselves, but curses their anger and their wrath (verse 7).

---

# No one is beyond God's redemption

---

- Moses and Aaron are descendants of the tribe of Levi (Exodus 2:1).
- Think of later disobedience. While Moses was on Mt. Sinai, the people became impatient and asked Aaron to make a golden calf to worship.
- Even though the anger and wrath of Levi had been cursed by Jacob, the Lord redeemed tribe of Levi for Himself and His service.
- Key principle: No one is beyond God's redemption.

---

# God is the source of all blessing

---

- In this section, Jacob showers blessings on both Judah and Joseph, though he also has some good things to say about his other sons, too.
- Judah: Judah was the youngest of the first four sons of Leah, so this is yet another example of God choosing the younger brother.
- In Judah's blessing, Jacob paints a picture of strong leadership over the rest of the brothers (49:8), and therefore, that the future kingly line will come from the tribe of Judah (verse 10).
- He is compared to a lion because of this royal line (verse 9).

---

# Faith and Conviction

---

- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
- Jacob asked to be buried with his fathers, the fathers of the promise.
- The fathers who had also been blessed by God: Abraham and Isaac.
- They had been buried in a cave in Canaan, the land that was promised to them by God as part of the blessing (Genesis 12:1–3; 15:1–7; 17:1–8; 26:23–33; 28:1–17; 35:9–15).

---

# Faith and Conviction

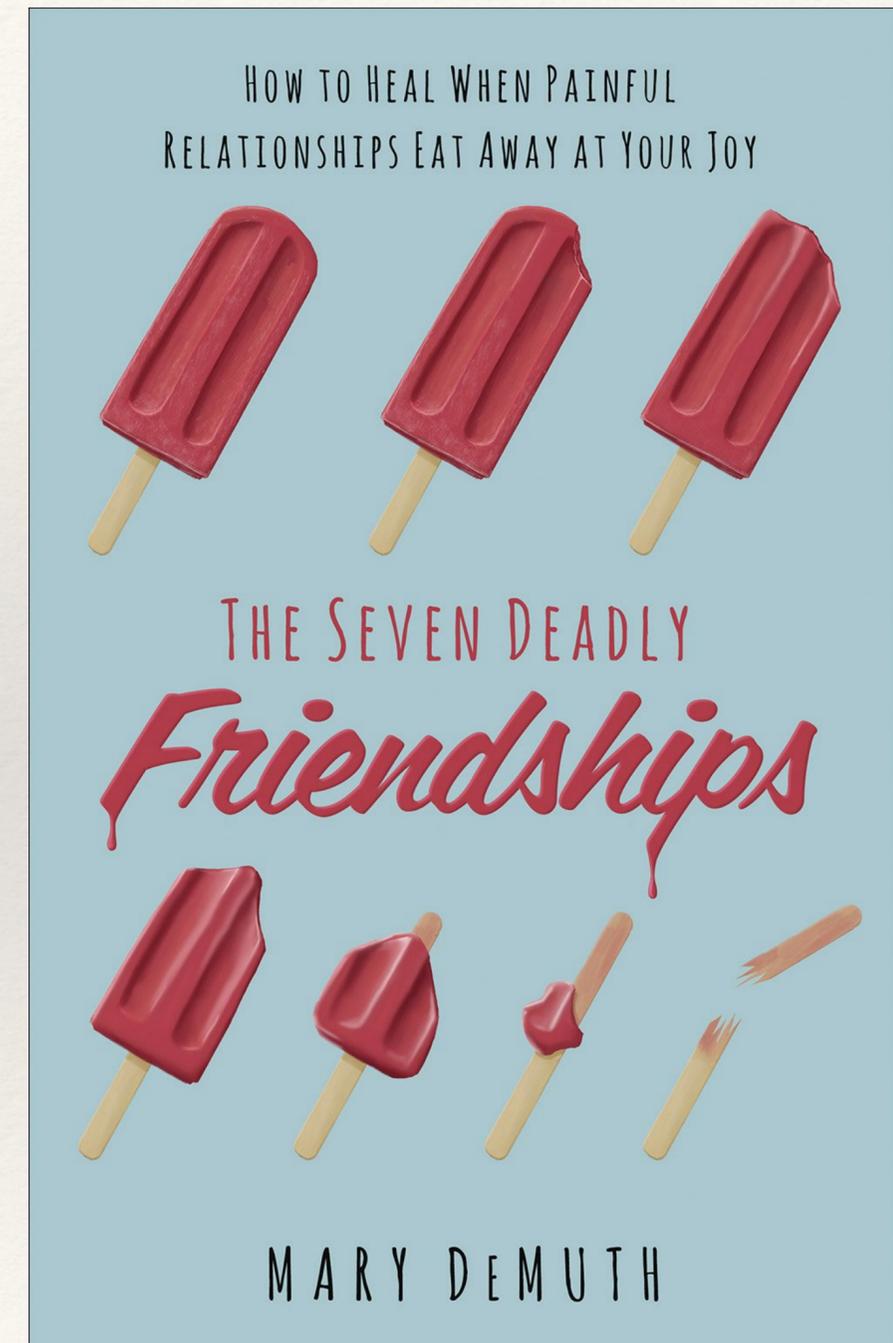
---

- They did not yet own the land of promise.
- Jacob and his fathers, Isaac and Abraham, had just been sojourners there.
- But they had bought this one cave in a land that wasn't theirs as an act of faith.
- Almost like putting a down payment on a plot of land in hopes to one day be able to actually build a home there.
- They were buried there in faith that one day that land would be theirs.

# Seven Deadly Friendships

# Seven Deadly Friendships

- *Seven Deadly Friendships* by Mary DeMuth
- Toxic friendships happen to all of us.
- We encounter them at work but also in our family relationships. We see them at family dinners and at holiday time.
- The seven deadly friendships are based on the seven deadly sins in Proverbs 6:16-19.



---

# Narcissist Nolan

---

- Like Narcissus, he must have constant attention, be told often of his positive attributes, and be heralded exclusively.
- He demands special treatment—from you, others, businesses, etc.
- He must have the best of everything—the best opinion, the perfect car, the right kind of computer, and the most beautiful pet.
- He has the emotional intelligence of a child. He cannot read social cues.
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 describes such a person and warns us to stay away from him.

---

# Unreliable Uma

---

- When you express a clear need, she does not respond or creates excuses.
- She blames you for your pain and tells you to move on.
- She agrees to meet, but then doesn't show up or send a text of excuses.
- The friendship isn't reciprocal.
- You feel used when you connect with her.
- Job 6:15-17 - Job had miserable “comforters” who blamed him for his pain.

---

# Predator Paige

---

- She is a master of deceit.
- She hides her sociopathic tendencies by creating admirable facades.
- She is entitled. She believes everything is owed to her.
- She is a master of exploitation and knows your weaknesses.
- Like Narcissist Ned, Predator Page has a hard time telling the truth.
- She gaslights (says things one day and denies them the next).
- Jeremiah 5:26-29 - warns of predators who lie in wait for victims.

---

# Conman Connor

---

- He is charming, irresistibly so.
- He comes across as having hidden, exclusive knowledge.
- He name drops and makes up degrees and awards.
- He is skilled at mimicry. He is a chameleon.
- He is a smooth talker and can alleviate any objection or fear you have.
- He lives for his reputation and overreacts if things don't go his way.
- Jeremiah 6:13 - warns about people ruled by greed and are frauds.

---

# Tempter Trevor

---

- He tends to pursue friends who have different morals than you do.
- He asks you to do things that violate your conscience.
- On one hand you don't like yourself when around him but do like the crazy adventure and adrenaline when you're around him.
- His opinion is the only correct one.
- He dominates every conversation with you, and constantly interrupts.
- Proverbs 22:24-25 - warns about people we should not associate with.

---

# Faker Fiona

---

- She becomes two different people: Public Fiona and Private Fiona.
- She pathologically lies - there is no real reason for the lie.
- She easily morphs into the crowd she currently is in.
- She may promise to change her ways, but the promise is short-lived.
- She talks behind your back.
- She cycles through friendships fairly rapidly.
- Job 17:12 - talks about people that say night is day, that darkness is light

---

# Dramatic Drake

---

- When he leaves, you feel utterly drained.
- He epitomizes the fairy tale of the boy who cried wolf.
- He works very hard at getting his own way.
- He stirs up drama and seems to delight in doing so.
- His bad day is the end of the world (even if 90 percent of his day was good).
- He seems to be the main character in a soap opera.
- Proverbs 26:17-26 - talks about drawing boundaries around such people.

---

# Joseph - Seven Words

---

- Mocked
- Abandoned
- Exploited
- Betrayed
- Misunderstood
- Maligned
- Imprisoned
- Filled
- Forward-thinking
- Fruitful
- Forgiving
- Faithful
- God-fearing
- Friendly

---

# Jesus

---

- The rich young ruler and Narcissist Nolan have some similarities.
- Peter swore he would not deny Christ like Unreliable Uma.
- Judas has lots in common with Predator Paige.
- Judas is also like Conman Connor.
- Satan is the tempter just like Tempter Trevor.
- The Pharisees were like Faker Fiona - whitewashed tombs.
- Thomas had some reactions like Dramatic Drake.

HOW TO HEAL WHEN PAINFUL  
RELATIONSHIPS EAT AWAY AT YOUR JOY



THE SEVEN DEADLY  
*Friendships*



MARY DEMUTH