

## **The Cross Of Many Colors**

No. 242

### **Introduction.**

I. Please listen as I read the first four verses of Genesis 37 about Joseph and his brothers.

**1 Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had sojourned, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the records of the generations of Jacob. Joseph, when seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. 4 And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.**

A. We learn here that Jacob loved Joseph, the son of Rachel, more than his 11 other sons. He showed his favoritism by making Joseph “a coat of many colors.”

B. The Bible tells us that this led his brothers to hate Joseph.

1. They later stripped Joseph of his coat of many colors and cast him into a pit.

2. Later they decided not to kill him, but sold him to some Ishmaelite merchants who sold him into Egyptian slavery.

C. The story of the coat of many colors is interesting because it shows us what favoritism and jealousy can and will do. It can agitate, even destroy a family.

II. Today I would like to speak on an unusual sermon title. The title of this lesson is “The Cross of Many Colors.”

A. This lesson should not be confused with the coat of many colors. That story has nothing to do with our salvation.

B. “The Cross Of Many Colors” has everything to do with salvation and eternal life.

III. In this lesson we want to look at the different colors of the cross of Christ, keeping in mind that were and are symbolic in nature. The cross of Christ has at least 4 colors.

I. **The Cross Of Christ Was Black** - The cross of the Christ was black.

We sometimes sing.

Night, with ebon pinion, Brooded o'er the vale; All around was silent, Save the night-wind's wail, When Christ the man of sorrows, In tears and sweat as blood, Prostrate in the garden, Raised his voice to God.	Smitten for offenses Which were not his own, He, for our transgressions Had to weep alone, No friend with words to comfort, Nor hand to help was there, When the meek and lowly Humbly bowed in pray'r.	Abba, Father, Abba, If indeed it may, Let this cup of anguish Pass from me, I pray; Yet, if it must be suffer'd, By me, Thine only Son, Abba, Father, Abba, Let Thy will be done.
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A. The cross of Christ was black because of the **terrible things that had occurred that day.**

1. Early that day Jesus had been condemned by the Sanhedrin and brought to Pilate that he might have Him crucified.
2. When Pilate offered to free Jesus the multitude would not hear to it, but shouted. (Matt. 27:22-25).
3. Pilate had the back of Christ mutilated by scourging and had a crown of thorns driven into His head.
4. Finally He was led to Golgotha (the place of the skull) where they brutally nailed Him to the cross and mocked Him.

B. The cross of Christ was black because **the sun was blotted out.** (Matt. 27:45, 46).

**45 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"**

1. The Bible does not specifically tell us why the sun was blotted out and there “darkness fell upon the land” for 6 hours.
2. I believe there are 2 likely reasons. It symbolized the horrible deed that had been committed. God’s on Son had been slain on the cross. It also likely symbolized the sadness of God because His beloved Son was dying on the cross and He had to let Jesus suffer and die all alone on the cross.
3. **God could not help Him.** The angels could not help Him. He had to die all alone and without help to become the Savior of the world.

C. The cross of Christ was black because **sin had made the cross a necessity.**

1. Have you ever noticed that repetitious emphasis in Scripture that sin made the cross a necessity. (Isa. 53:5, 6).

**ISA 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living, For the transgression of my people to whom the stroke was due?**

**ISA 53:10 But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in**

**His hand.**

**ISA 53:12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.**

**2. John the Baptist** said. (Jn. 1:29).

3. Jesus said. (Matt. 26:28).

4. Paul declared in Romans 4:25.

5. Paul wrote in Romans 5.

**6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

6. Peter wrote that He bore our sins in his body on the tree. (1 Pet. 2:24).

**7. Sin needs to be seen for what it is and what it caused.**

a. Sin is so awful, so hideous that it made the cross essential.

b. It demanded Jesus die on the cross. There was no other way to atone for sin.

**II. The Cross of Christ Was White** - The cross of Christ was white.

A. The Bible tells us that Jesus was crucified with 2 thieves. One of the thieves railed at Christ, but the other declared Jesus was a righteous man and had “done nothing amiss.” (Lk. 22:42).

B. Christ was not a sinner, but He was perfect.

1. Jesus never committed a single sin. Jesus died as the perfect, pure, innocent sacrifice.

2. John 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 Jn. 3:5

**III. The Cross Of Christ Was Red** - The cross of Christ was red.

A. Christ shed His precious blood there.

1. Christ had already shed much blood before the crucifixion - talk about the scourging & crown of thorns.

2. We are saved by the blood shed in His death - Jesus had to die for us to be saved.

B. Because of His shed blood, we have been redeemed. (Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 18, 19).

**IV. The Cross Of Christ Was Gold** - The cross of Christ was gold.

A. It was a reality not because of selfish ambition or malice or greed or revenge.

B. **God's love made it a reality.** (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:10).

## **Conclusion.**

I. **Yes, love motivated God to give His Son for us.** Love motivated Christ to voluntarily go to the cross for our sins.

II. **The message of "The Cross Of Many Colors" must not be ignored.**

A. **It screams to be heard** by every man, woman, and child. Etched with blood, on a Roman cross, is the message, "I love you. I died for you. I died that you might escape eternal condemnation and have eternal life with God.

B. **Christ calls to all.** Come to Me. Confess Me. Be buried with Me in baptism. Let my blood cleanse you and make you white as snow. Come to Jesus now as we stand and sing.

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