

## "A CERTAIN MAN AND A WANDERING BOY"

Text: Gen. 37:15

(a Sermon for Boy Scout Sunday)

INTRODUCTION: The Story of Joseph is one of the most exciting in all of the Bible.

There are 20 million "vanishing adolescents" in the USA today.

Joseph was 17 years old at this time;  
he was called a "lad".

Jn. 6:9, "There is a lad here"

Ps. 144:12, "That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth."

Prov. 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Eccles. 12:1, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth."

Zech. 8:5, "The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof."

### I. A WANDERING BOY

A. He was highly Favored

1. His father loved him and made for him a coat of many colors, (vs 3)

2. Prov. 16:15, "In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain."

3. Boys today are highly favored and greatly privileged to grow up in our generation.

B. He was jealously hated, vs 4.

1. Ps. 25:19, "They hate me with cruel hatred."

2. Mt. 5:44, "Do good to them that hate you."

3. Luke 6:22, "Blessed are ye when men shall hate you"

4. Some boys today may be hated;

Perhaps that is one reason why they are lost;

no one loves them.

5. ~~What was Jacob doing when his sons were young?~~

C. He was a dreamer of dreams, vs 5-11.

1. He was called in derision & scorn:

"Behold, this DREAMER cometh." vs 19.

2. Prov. 29:18, "For where there is no vision, the people perish."

3. I Cor 2:9, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

"Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
as the swift seasons roll!  
Leave thy low-vaulted past!  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,  
Till thou at length art free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea!"

"We are all of us dreamers of dreams,  
On visions our childhood is fed.  
From childhood to youth's but a span  
And the years of our life are soon sped;  
But the youth is no longer a youth, but a man,  
When the first of his dreams is dead."

"IF you can dream--and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think--and not make thoughts your aim---  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And--which is more--you'll be a Man, my son!"  
(Kipling)

D. He was an obedient Messenger, vs 13-14.

1. Acts 26:19, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."
2. Mt 10:16, "I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves."
3. II Cor 8:23, "of Titus...or our brethren... they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ."
4. Isa 6:8, "Then said I, here am I; send me."
5. II Cor 5:20, "we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us."
6. We today are challenged to be obedient messengers for God.

E. He was wandering and lost, vs 15.

1. Ps 119:176, "I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant."

2. Lam 4:14, "They have wandered as blind men in the streets."

3. Ezek. 34:6, "My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill."

4. Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

5. Luke 15:24, "He was lost, and is found"

## II. A "CERTAIN MAN" Found Him, vs 15 (KJV)

- A. A certain man with keen insight.
1. He realized that the boy was lost and needed help.
  2. I Kings 3:9, "Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad."
  3. Eccl. 8:5, "A Wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment."
  4. To see the possibilities and potential in a lost and wandering boy requires rare insight.

### B. With Sincere interest and concern.

1. The scriptural word is LOVE.

Love one another.

Love even your enemies

Love thy neighbor as thyself.

The greatest thing in the world is love.

Let brotherly love continue.

2. More than anything else, all boys need someone to love them and show interest in them and concern for them.

### C. A Man with Helpful Information.

1. He gave the boy direction and started him back on the right road.

2. Acts 16:9, "Come over into Macedonia and HELP us"

3. Isa 41:6, "They helped every one his neighbor."

**CONCLUSION:** This certain man -- unknown, unnamed, unsung, unheralded, unpublicized -- was in the right place at the right time; he was prepared and willing to take advantage of the opportunity, and he found a lost and wandering boy and put him on the right road. Every Christian man here can and should be like this "Certain Man".

When we see and hear a tenderfoot raise his hand in the scout sign, and promises, "On my honor I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the scout laws; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong,

mentally awake and morally straight," our hearts should beat a bit faster.

Here is a wandering boy finding a sense of direction and purpose in life.

And when we see and hear the same boy pray, "God be merciful to me, a sinner, and save me for Jesus' sake; Lord, I trust in and receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior,"

then our hearts beat faster yet. When he confesses Christ openly before men and follows Him in his daily life, then we rejoice with the angels of heaven, for here indeed a lost boy is found of his Heavenly Father, and a wandering boy gets on the road that leads to eternal life.

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