

Genesis 45

“I am Joseph!”

SADLY Holiday SEASON is SUICIDE Season – Life Not Worth LIVING

HOLIDAY Season is FAMILY Season --- just why Some People End Life!

Too Many families LOOK Like JACOB’S Family – DYSFUNCTION, PAIN
BROTHERS Enjoy Nice LUNCH – HATED Brother Wails from Bottom PIT

1st SERMON of NEW COVENANT Apostle Peter > Gospel Hope for Family

Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For *the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.*” Acts 2.38.39

I hope STUDY of Genesis given you HOPE for YOUR FAMILY > In the Lord
More than 20 yrs Later - 10 Brothers NOW CRYING for a SON of RACHEL
Not want to See Another INNOCENT Brother go into PIT of Egyptian PRISON
TEARS of 10 Earned TRUST of BOSS over Egypt > Really was BROTHER!

1. Repentance led to Reconciliation

a. Shock – Finally HEAR words READERS been WAITING FOR...!

Joseph knew his brothers before they knew him.

Judah, Reuben, Simeon, Levi all the others

They thought he was MYSTERIOUS EGYPTIAN POTENTATE

Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. Genesis 42.8

3rd X Joseph DRIVEN TEARS as he Faced his BROTHERS – HID other 2 X’s

SENDS Out the EGYPTIAN to form this HUDDLE of HOLY HEBREWS

FAMILY MATTER – Not matter of STATE or POLITICS – Covenant Renewal

CLIMACTIC Moment of STORY > BROTHERS in STUNNED SILENCE!

“I am Joseph!” – Months Passed, Miles Traveled, Misery Applied

vs. 1-3 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, “*I am Joseph!* Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

The imperial power broker who had controlled the course of events...suddenly lost control of himself. E.F. Roop

Brothers Looking into OPEN GRAVE – DEAD MAN NOW ALIVE
ASHAMED for their ACTIONS – AFRAID of the CONSEQUENCES

They had put Joseph in a pit, but God took him out of a pit and placed him on a throne. James Boice

Would SWORD of JUSTICE Now FALL on them BEHIND CLOSED DOORS?

They THOUGHT this SURELY was their FINAL JUDGMENT DAY...

...every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God Romans 3.19

Minds must RECALLED Long Wasted Years – 100’s of LIES trying to Cover SIN

b. See

v. 4 Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near.

PROBABLY the SCARIEST STEPS of their LIVES

“keep your friends close, but your enemies closer” Michael Corleone, “*The Godfather*”

Will they ESCAPE the GRIP of the MOST POWERFUL Hand in Egypt?

v. 12 And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you.

UNDERSTOOD that Hand that could KILL wants to CONSOLE

vs. 14, 15 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

Joseph had to WAIT 20 years to Get Apology from Family

Some of US have been Waiting EVEN LONGER – Some will Never Hear One

But we live our Life for PLEASURE of God – Not the Praise of Man

Do YOU Recognize Hand of God working in your Life?

Are you BLIND to the GOD whose GLORY is Declared in the HEAVENS?

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: “Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”

Isaiah 1.2,3

WE fail to RECOGNIZE our OWN CREATOR and His CHRIST

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. John 1.10,11

Jesus knew us BEFORE we were BORN – Knows our HIDDEN SECRETS

Cannot HIDE from God's Omnipresent Seeking SPIRIT and WORD >

One Sunday Pastor in Hawaii, Angry Woman met me at the DOOR after Service

“HOW did you know I got into a big FIGHT w/ my HUSBAND this Morning?”

“I do now!”

“Oh, I was sure you were TALKING ABOUT ME in your SERMON!”

“I was NOT Thinking about YOU – but it Sounds like GOD WAS!”

IF see GOD and FEAR HIM – Wonderful! – MERCY made you ALIVE

Holy Spirit CONVICTS Sin, Righteousness, and Judgement

OTHERS are Happily DEAD in Sin – No IDEA they're DESTINED for HELL

You can NO LONGER be Happy to thing you are going to ETERNAL FLAMES

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29.13

2. Perspective of Providence

a. Lord over All

In Study of JOSEPH – One of most Wonderful Qualities > Relate ALL to God

Name of GOD occurs in Nearly Every Sentence he SPEAKS

Joseph hardly speaks one sentence without mentioning NAME of GOD

Potiphar's WIFE thinking about SEX, Joseph thought of SOVEREIGN GOD

“How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” Genesis 39.9

BAKER wanted INTERPRETATION of his Scary Dream, Jo.> INTERPRETER

Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God?” Genesis 40.8

Not ASHAMED to tell Pharaoh KING More Powerful than him...

Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”
Genesis 41.16

CLEAREST Example of Joseph's GOD-CENTERED Focus Right Here...

5 verses to COMFORT his Terrified Brothers – Mentions GOD 4 X's

vs. 5-9 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt.

NO Mention of LONELINESS, FEAR, HUNGER, COLD, PAIN

Surely they ALL – & MORE – Occurred – Times OVERWHELMED

What he DOES Not Understand – Not Cause DOUBT – TRUSTS God More

Faith is neither naivety nor gullibility. It is neither illogical nor irrational. On the contrary, faith is a reasoning trust. It rests on knowledge, the knowledge of God's name. Its reasonableness arises from the reliability of God who is being trusted. It is never unreasonable to trust in God, since no more trustworthy person exists.

John Stott

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. Genesis 50.20

His narrative reads like a nightmare, a cacophony of outrageous excesses unjustly inflicted upon him. A rational conclusion that it is all absurd could have made him an existentialist, a cynic, or a nihilist. But he chooses the heavenly perspective that God is working through him to bring about what is good.

Bruce Waltke

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8.28

PHARAOH himself hears News and Extends HOSPITALITY

To Family of the MAN who has SAVED Egypt

27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. God's providence is His almighty and ever present power, whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures, and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things, come not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

28. Q. What does it benefit us to know that God has created all things and still upholds them by His providence?

A. We can be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and with a view to the future we can have a firm confidence in our faithful God and Father that no creature shall separate us from His love; for all creatures are so completely in His hand that without His will they cannot so much as move.
Heidelberg Catechism, 1563

b. Love covers All

Joseph's LOVE for GOD moves him to LOVE MEN – even his BAD Brothers

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4.8,9

vs. 9-11 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

By looking past secondary causes to God, who is the first cause, Joseph gained a stabilizing perspective on life...out of which he was able to forgive and reassure his brothers.
James Boice

When BROTHERS left him Father JACOB having One of Many PITY Parties

CRYING about his TERRIBLE Life and WORRIED he'd Soon go Down to Sheol

BROTHERS Came Back with SHOCKING NEWS

Despite BLOOD Drenched FANCY Coat > Joseph STILL ALIVE!

vs. 25-28 So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Jacob spent MOST of LIFE Trying to GET Something from EVERYONE

Now RISES to DIGNITY of ISRAEL – Prince with GOD

Will go to Egypt – Not for what he can GET – but who he CAN SEE

3. Forgiving and Being Forgiven

a. Faith linked to Affliction

Joseph TRUSTED God but LIFE SITUATION did NOT Quickly IMPROVE

READ these Chapters in MINUTES – Describe YEARS of DISAPPOINTMENT

Joseph had been LONELY for 20 yrs

Some entering HOLIDAY Season FAR from FAMILIES and HOME

Joseph spent THANKSGIVING in PRISON – Not have Spaghetti or TURKEY

NEVER Will go HOME AGAIN – Prison to Palace – Always FOREIGNER

v. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

The stars are much bigger than a telescope...the believer's body is to be a telescope...To the average person, Jesus Christ is a misty figure in history who lived centuries ago. But as the unsaved watch the believer go through a crisis, they can see Jesus magnified and brought much closer. Warren Wiersbe

JOSEPH is LENS thru which we SEE JESUS and TRUE FAITH in Him

PAUL who had his TRIPS to PRISONS, Learned this Counter-Intuitive TRUTH

“we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” Romans 5.3-5

NOT SURPRISING > Our FAITH is in MAN NAILED to a CROSS

CALLS his Followers to Pick Up OWN CROSS join his DEATH MARCH

FAITH in CHRIST cannot be Separated from CROSS – HIS and OURS

b. Salvation means Submission

vs. 8-11 So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you

Brothers had CHOICE > FAMINE at Home or FALL Before Brother in EGYPT
DREAMER they HATED and Tried to KILL is ONLY HOPE for LIFE / Future

DREAMER is RIGHT – Whole FAMILY must BOW Down to JOSEPH!

NEVER Live Another DAY when JOSEPH is NOT their MASTER

Never have MEAL Not Provided by Him – All Land, Houses, Flocks thru HIM

Early Christians FORCED to make Dangerous Choice > Rome: Caesar is LORD
FEW Brave Ones TURNED Back on FALSE God – Confessed JESUS @ LORD
if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead, you will be saved Romans 10.9

TRUST you have MADE that BOLD CONFESSION – Perhaps LONG AGO?

Confession Needs to be MADE DAILY – Many Times Every DAY

LORD of my Schedule, Relationships, Choices, Future, Thoughts, Dreams

Thousands came HEAR Jesus – REALLY Enjoyed FREE Lunch – Fish & Bread

Then PREACHING got Too DEMANDING – He must be ALL in ALL

He is SOURCE of Life and REASON for Life > Very BREAD of LIFE

Without HIM there is NO LIFE > TOO MUCH! > We're OUTTA HERE!

Many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this?”...After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6.60-69

“To the awakened sinner, this is also part of his misery, that he is entirely in the hands of that very Christ whom he once despised; for that Christ has died and now become the judge of the quick and the dead; he has power over all flesh that he may give eternal life to as many as the Father has given him... Today, he whom thou hast despised has thee absolutely at his will... Oh! What an awful thing it is to fall into the hands of the living God, for even our God is a consuming fire” Jonathan Edwards

CALL of God could NOT be RESISTED – He was KING, they MUST Obey
Said “Come Close” – Must have been TERRIFIED – Walking into Death-TRAP
Joseph NOT calling in ANGER – Heart filled with AFFECTION for Brothers

Jesus CALLS because you’ve PASSED from Death to Life – BELONG to HIM
Jesus calls in SECRET – Strangers PUT OUT of the ROOM – PRIVATE
Sitting in ROOM Full of PEOPLE – PRIVATE Audience w/ Maker & Savior

Calls as BROTHER – Took OUR Place – ENDURED our Suffering
Now from THRONE Shares HIS GIFTS – He EARNED and GIVES to Us

“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” 2 Corinthians 5.17

Genesis 45:¹Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him. ¹⁶When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. ¹⁷And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, ¹⁸and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' ¹⁹And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. ²⁰Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'" ²¹The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. ²²To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. ²³To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. ²⁴Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way." ²⁵So they went up out of Egypt and came to

the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. ²⁶And they told him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. ²⁷But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. ²⁸And Israel said, “It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”