



Genesis 42-50
From sermon 3.28.21

Read *Genesis 45:3-8*

Review From Sunday's Sermon: As we arrive at the last sermon/lesson in Genesis, it's time for Joseph to be both revealed and honored. His brothers go to Egypt to buy food. There, they eventually learn of Joseph's destiny. The book ends the same way it flowed = God is faithful and His plan will prevail. Joseph is a man of great character and faith. The birth and growth of Israel is established.

1. The back and forth, along with the setup regarding the brother's bags, would make it seem Joseph is taking some revenge here. But, based on Joseph's character, what is it more likely that he was doing? Testing their character and repentance. He knows the real person is always revealed under fire.

See *1 Peter 1:6-7*

2. Because the famine is going to last for several more years, what proposal/invite does Joseph make? He invites his father and the entire family (nation) to come live in Egypt as special guests.

2a. What is Jacob's first response and why? He is somewhat hesitant. Jacob has changed from the impulsive kid who did the expedient thing. He knows that Canaan is the Promised Land. He fears he might be showing a lack of faith in leaving the Land.

2b. What finally changes Jacob's mind and gives him assurance? God comes to him and speaks, giving him peace and assurance in leaving. See *Genesis 46:3-4*

3. Read *Genesis 49:8-12*. What is happening here and what is the amazing prophecy being given? Before he dies, Jacob (Israel) is speaking words of blessing and prophecy over each of his sons. We would expect that a future leadership role would fall on Ruben or Joseph. But, we learn Judah will be the royal kingly line. Even here, it's prophesied that Messiah will come from Judah.

[Teaching note. It takes centuries for this to be fulfilled. Next four books are centered on Levites. Then comes the time of the Judges. It's not until the half way mark in 1st Samuel that the prophecy is fulfilled with David]

4. What is the "Good out of Bad" Doctrine and how is Joseph a shining example of this humility? That God can and does use man's sin and failures to His own purpose and glory. The sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man never negate each other. Both are true. Because Joseph knew God is sovereign, he never viewed his brothers as the agents of his situation and never considered himself entitled to anything because of his lot.

4a. How is this so completely counter-cultural in our day? Every group, movement, and cause views themselves at the victim and someone as the culprit. The sense of entitlement is rampant and reinforced. All my feelings and responses are justified. All yours are sinister and irrelevant.

5. What have you learned from Genesis? Various personal answers. Origins matter. Our acceptance of scripture is tied to our acceptance of a literal Creation, origins, Genesis account. Israel matters. People have been sinful/dysfunctional since the beginning...it's not just my family!

5a. Did you discover how very foundational this book is to the rest of the Bible? Sets up the rest of narrative. Jesus is seen throughout. Continual references to Revelation/the end.

6. Who was your favorite Genesis character/story and why? Various personal answers

7. What two things were promised (and continually reiterated) for God's people through most of the book of Genesis? See *Genesis 15:12-16*. A move to a foreign land (Egypt). Bondage and trial. 400 years removed. God's miraculous rescue