



Wise and Innocent

Community Group Study Guide: Genesis 47 – Week of July 30, 2023

1. Joseph Provides for His Family

Jesus tells us in Mark 10 that in the midst of a sinful world looking to do us harm, that we are to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. God is the giver of wisdom, and He wants His people to righteously use that wisdom to do good for those around them. We see Joseph exemplify this in the end of chapter 46 and into chapter 47. Joseph instructs his brothers on what they should say to Pharaoh, in order to best position them within the kingdom. Joseph displays tremendous wisdom, simultaneously soothing any worry in Pharaoh while equipping his family for the future. Joseph shows two areas of praiseworthy conduct. First, he displays the wisdom of God, in how he is adeptly able to navigate the political arena of Pharaoh's court. Secondly, Joseph is using his capacity and resources to provide for his family. We see in this story a reflection of how God has acted toward us. He has seen our need, and in His grace, He has provided for us. Through Jesus, our righteous older brother, we have been saved from the land that was bringing death, and brought into a new land that brings about life. He has provided for us, and given us instructions on how we are to act. He has done all of this out of His love for us. In response, we are to imitate the actions of Jesus within our own sphere of influence that the Lord has placed us in.

2. Pharaoh is Blessed

The effect of Joseph's wisdom given to him by God ultimately brings a significant blessing to Pharaoh. Beyond having the provision of food, Pharaoh ends up acquiring all of land, livestock, and livelihoods of all the citizens of Egypt. Once again, we see that the wisdom of God, when implemented, can reap incredible blessings.

3. Egypt is Blessed

The people of Egypt are also blessed by Joseph's Godly wisdom. Even though they end up having to trade their

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Wisdom is a powerful tool given to us by God to be obediently applied for the flourishing of His people. Wisdom, when applied within Godly headship, is a potent combination. This leads to the best outcomes for ourselves and society.

Heart

Wisdom is to be used in an unselfish manner, seeking the glory of God and the good of others. Our hearts should desire to live sacrificial lives, giving gracefully as God has given to you.

Hands

Ask the Lord for wisdom. Seek it within His word. Learn from those who are wise. Humbly sacrifice for the sake of others. Pursue God's purpose by God's means in every situation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members Meeting
September 10 @ 1pm

money, livestock, and services, they ultimately survive the famine. The entire nation does not meet its demise because of the blessing of God, through Joseph.

4. Israel is Blessed

Israel as a nation was also blessed. They settled into the land of Goshen. They gain possessions, and were fruitful and multiplied. The flourishing of the line of Abraham began exponential growth, in part because of Joseph's wisdom and righteous obedience.

Read Genesis 47

1. Wisdom is highly valuable asset for anyone to have. How is it obtained? Is there a practical way to cultivate it? What ways do we misunderstand or undervalue wisdom? What impedes our growth in wisdom?
2. **Read Proverbs 18:15** What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Is one more valuable than the other? Are they different in how they are acquired? How does this passage change our perspective?
3. Was it wise for the Egyptians to sell themselves to pharaoh during the famine? Consider their response in 47:25. How does this apply to the Christians life, today?
4. What does it mean to be a sojourner? Why is it valuable to understand that as Christians we ourselves are sojourners? How does it effect the way we view and interact with our day to day lives?
5. **Read Luke 16:1-9** What is the primary principle of this parable? What impact does it have on your life? How might you reconsider how you interact with others?
6. What areas of your life do you have an opportunity to “make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth?” What would it look like?