

Chapter 47

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 47 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class

Verses 1,2

Joseph presenting some of his brothers to Pharaoh was an act of respect and homage to Pharaoh. Though Joseph was second in command only to Pharaoh, he still knew who was in charge. A good leader is humble.

1. What other examples of humble people raised to a position of authority can you find in the Bible?

Verse 2-4

Notice that Joseph brought only five of his brothers to introduce to Pharaoh. We are not told which ones.

Ellicott's Commentary- "As the number "five" appears again and again in this narrative (Genesis 43:34; Genesis 45:22), it may have had some special importance among the Egyptians, like the number seven among the Jews."

His brothers were obedient to what Joseph commanded them in Genesis 46:33.

2. Looking back at Genesis 37:6-8, in what different ways has the relationship between Joseph and his brothers changed?

Verse 7

With all the simplicity and dignity of a solemn man of God, Jacob signaled his entrance by imploring the divine blessing on the royal head of Pharaoh. What a striking impression the scene would produce.

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown- "Jacob was not ashamed of his age, frailty, occupation, or faith. He knew his God and did not let being in the presence of royalty cause him to forget who he was."

3. Do you ever get intimidated when in the presence of someone seemingly of greater importance than you? Maybe they are better educated, well liked, or hold a position of authority? Do you ever lose sight of who you are in Christ? It's not uncommon for us to compare ourselves and forget the value God places on us.

Search for Scriptures that speak of the value God places on you regardless of your education, popularity, or position.

Verse 9, *"So Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The years of my living abroad are 130; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their living abroad."*

4. Think back on our study of Genesis. How many "unpleasant" things can you recall that Jacob has dealt with in his 130 years? Which ones were of his own foolish decisions and which ones were out of his control?

Regardless of what his life was up to this point, he is now being blessed, reunited with Joseph, his entire family around him and being kept safe from the famine.

Life hands everyone a certain amount of hardship. Sometimes the hardship comes from our own doing. We can either dwell on the unpleasant, or we can rejoice in what God is doing in our life. That is a choice.

5. Write out at least three blessings that you have from the Lord, despite any unpleasantness you may be experiencing right now. Give thanks to the Lord for His blessings in your life.

Verses 11,12

Goshen was known as the country of grass or of the shepherds. This land was both fruitful and pleasant and would accommodate their livestock. Joseph wished to plant his family in that part of Egypt. God used Joseph's position to provide for Israel in the midst of a terrible famine.

6. What "famine" have you been through where you recognized the hand of God supernaturally directing your provision?

Verses 13-26

In these verses we see how Joseph wisely and graciously dealt with the Egyptians.

Barnes Notes- "The famishing people have no more money; but they must have bread... He proposes to take their cattle. This was really a relief to the people, as they had no means of providing them with fodder (food). The value of commodities is wholly altered by a change of circumstances. Pearls will not purchase a cup of water in a vast and dreary wilderness. Cattle become worthless when food becomes scarce, and the means of procuring (obtaining) it are exhausted. For their cattle Joseph supplies them with food during the sixth year."

Verse 25, *"So they said, 'You have saved our lives! Let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's slaves.'"*

Is our gratitude towards Jesus saving us, evident in our desire to serve Him?

God gave Joseph wisdom to preserve life and serve the Pharaoh faithfully. This was the calling that God has placed on Joseph's life.

Whatever your calling is, God enables you to walk it out as a blessing to others and to Him.

7. Find verses on being a "slave" or "bondservant" of Christ.

8. In this current season of your life, where is God calling you to serve? How, specifically, can you bless others there, as Joseph did?

Pray and ask God for the discipline to serve Him wholeheartedly and joyfully.

Verse 27, 28

The Israelites were thriving in their new home. God told Jacob that He would be with him in Egypt, and He was true to His word. Jacob lived for seventeen years in Egypt and saw his family grow, just as the Lord promised.

Verses 29-31

As Jacob moves closer to death, he makes his wishes known.

Barnes Notes - "*He called his son Joseph.*" Joseph retained his power and place near Pharaoh after the fourteen years of special service were completed; hence, Jacob looks to him for the accomplishment of his wishes concerning the place of his burial."

Jacob wishes to be buried, not with his beloved Rachel, but with his ancestors. This is in the Cave of Machpelah.

In Genesis 23:9 Abraham purchased it to bury Sarah.

In Genesis 25:9 Abraham was buried there.

In Genesis 35:29 Isaac was buried there.

Rebekah's and Leah's deaths are not recorded, but they are also buried there.

Chapter 47 ends with Jacob bowing in worship. As weak as he may have been, he is fully engaged in worshipping the Lord. Read Ecclesiastes 12:13

What a loving and gracious God we serve. He wants only to have a personal relationship with us and be given the worship that He deserves. Jacob, in his weak state, worshipped the Lord.

9. What favorite verses can you share that speak of God's worthiness to be worshipped?
