

# ***G R O W T H N O T E S***

## ***“When God Turns The Story”***

***(Providence Is In The Plot—AND—God Is Working in All Things) – Part 2***

***TODAY’S SCRIPTURE: Genesis 50:15-20  
and Romans 8:28–32***

## **TODAY’S MESSAGE**

### **“When God Works Behind The Scene”**

**NKJV: Joseph Reassures His Brothers**

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “Perhaps Joseph will hate us, and may <sup>[c]</sup>actually repay us for all the evil which we did to him.” <sup>16</sup> So they sent *messengers* to Joseph, saying, “Before your father died he commanded, saying, <sup>17</sup> ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph: “I beg you, please forgive

the trespass of your brothers and their sin; for they did evil to you.” ’ Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

<sup>18</sup> Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, “Behold, we *are* your servants.”

<sup>19</sup> Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. <sup>21</sup> Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke [\[d\]](#)kindly to them.

**NLT: Joseph Reassures His Brothers**

<sup>14</sup> After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. <sup>15</sup> But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

<sup>16</sup> So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us <sup>17</sup> to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin."

When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? <sup>20</sup> You

intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. <sup>21</sup> No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Message: <sup>19-21</sup> Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid. Do I act for God? Don't you see, you planned evil against me but God used those same plans for my good, as you see all around you right now—life for many people. Easy now, you have nothing to fear; I'll take care of you and your children." He reassured them, speaking with them heart-to-heart.

NKJV: <sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. <sup>29</sup> For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image

of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

### **God's Everlasting Love**

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

NLT: <sup>28</sup> And we know that God causes everything to work together<sup>[m]</sup> for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. <sup>29</sup> For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn<sup>[n]</sup> among many brothers and

sisters. <sup>30</sup> And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.

### **Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love**

<sup>31</sup> What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? <sup>32</sup> Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?

Message: <sup>29-30</sup> God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. After God made that

decision of what his children should be like, he followed it up by calling people by name. After he called them by name, he set them on a solid basis with himself. And then, after getting them established, he stayed with them to the end, gloriously completing what he had begun.

<sup>31-32</sup> So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us?

### **Series Overview**

This series proclaims one steady truth for unsteady times: the God who was at work in Joseph's pit, prison, and palace is the same God who works in all things for the good of His people and secures them in the love of Christ. Divine providence is God's continuing

preservation, involvement, and governance of creation toward His ultimate purpose.

Concurrence describes how God works in and through real creaturely actions without erasing human responsibility or becoming the author of sin. Serendipity names the happy discovery we did not schedule; faith goes further and confesses that what surprised us never surprised God. Across four sermons, the congregation will move from trusting God's hidden hand, to understanding His concurrent work, to reading unexpected mercies as signs of grace, and finally to resting in the unbreakable security of God's ultimate divine plans.

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### **Big Idea**

God's providence does not call evil good; God overrules evil for a good that serves His saving purpose. What people intend for harm cannot cancel what God intends for redemption, formation, and the preservation of life.

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- **What Is Divine Providence?**
- **Divine providence means God's continuous guidance, governance, and protective care over the universe and all human beings;**
- **The word, “Providence”—comes from the Latin *provideo*, meaning "to see forward" or "to see on behalf of;"**
- **“Providence” implies active foresight and care;**
- **Divine Providence includes God's continuous upholding of the laws of nature and the physical existence of the universe;**

- **Special Providence**—is considered God's direct, extraordinary intervention in the lives of individuals, such as answers to prayer, protection, or perceived miracles;
- **AND**—when it comes to **Sovereignty vs. Free Will**—“**Divine Providence**”—describes how God directs history and fulfills divine purposes—while taking human choices and free will into account;
- **AND**—“**Divine Providence**”—represents God working through everyday events—natural laws—even hardships to fulfill a purposeful and good end;
- **AND**—“**Divine Providence**”—intersects with God's attributes of omniscience (knowing all)—omnipotence (all-

**powerful)—AND—omnipresence  
(everywhere all at once);**

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***MORE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF  
JOSEPH***

***1. "God's Sovereignty Does Not Cancel  
Human Responsibility."***

***2. "God Will Have The Last Word And It Will  
Be Good."***

***3. "When God Used Joseph To Save Not Only  
His People And The Entire Region—It  
Foreshadowed God Using God's Only  
Begotten Son To Save The World!"***

***C O N C L U S I O N***

During a complex operation, many people act—the surgeon, anesthesiologist, nurses, technicians—AND—the patient who consented and followed preparation instructions. Their actions aren't identical, but converge toward one healing purpose because everybody has a part to play.

Likewise—When we're in a crisis God provides aid—assistance—answered prayer—AND—deliverance from expected—AND—unexpected sources including the church, wise counsel, spiritual gifts—even the wealth of the wicked—all we've Got To Do Is Allow God To Provide a “means of grace”—a way out—a way of escape—because no matter what God uses—God is the source of deliverance!