

The Joseph Story

Part 6

Genesis 45

Joseph Makes Himself Known

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! **5** And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. **9** Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. **10** You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. **11** I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

12 “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. **13** Tell my father about all the

honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Vs. 1

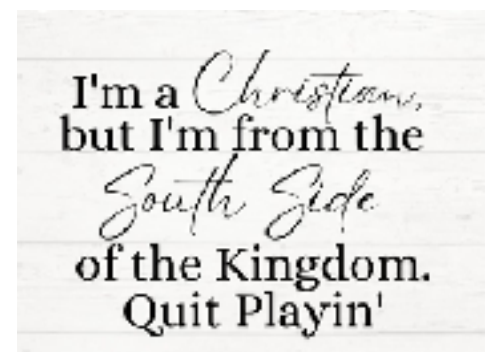
Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers.

- God has raised Joseph up and now presents Joseph with the first test of greatness... What will he do with those who meant evil for him?
- God brings Joseph’s offenders back to him... How will he treat them? Will he bless those who did him wrong?
- At this point in the story, Joseph is aware of who they are but they are clueless of who he is...
- Joseph could have been harsh and sent them back to starve...
- Joseph could of felt justified in his mind in doing so...
- But this is proof that God has worked in Joseph to prepare his heart for this moment...

2 Corinthians 5

16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has



committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors,

Reconciliation: to re-conceal, restore to favor, atonement.

Vs. 2

And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

- With all that Joseph has been through, his heart is still tender towards his brother...
- This means God can still use him... If Joseph had become hard hearted and callous that wouldn't have been good...
- Joseph in all his power, in all his authority is still able to be lead by the Lord...

Joseph demonstrates - Meekness

Meekness: Strength under control.

Mathew 5:5

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Jesus didn't say blessed are the weak.. Jesus said blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Illustration: Clydesdale (1700-2200 lbs.) in full dress in a parade surrounded by children.

- Joseph had determined in his heart not to harm his brothers but to bless them even though they were terrified of him.
- Joseph had the power to crush his brothers who hurt him but he didn't, instead he told them to come close and he kissed them.

Vs. 5-8

5 And now, **do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves** for selling me here, because it was to save lives that **God sent me ahead of you.**

6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. **7** But **God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth** and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 **“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

- Joseph didn't get caught up on the little things, He kept his eyes on the big picture. This was God's purpose for his life...
- Joseph forgives his brothers and sees that God's purpose is greater than the evil they intended...
- If Joseph had never gotten over the little thing, he would have never seen the big thing God had for him...

Joseph puts it behind him, he forgives and now he says

“do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves”

“God sent me ahead of you.”

“God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth”

“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God.”

- It is never God's design or plan for someone to be sidelined or derailed from His purpose for their lives because of what someone else did to them...

Romans 12

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. **18** If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. **19** Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. **20** On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Vs. 16-21

16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. **17** Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, **18** and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'

19 "You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come.

20 Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.'"

21 So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey.

Genesis 46

6 So Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt, taking with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan. **7** Jacob brought with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring.

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28 ...When they arrived in the region of Goshen, **29** Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.

30 Israel said to Joseph, “Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive.”

Genesis 50

22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father’s family. He lived a hundred and ten years **23** and saw the third generation of Ephraim’s children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph’s knees.

24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” **25** And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, “God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.”

26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Exodus 1:8

Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

- This was approximately 430 years after Jacob and his family moved to Egypt...

- This means not only did Joseph save his entire family and the Nation of Israel from Famine, but his impact on the nation of Egypt lasted more than 300 years after his death.