

Acts: O Church, Arise!
February 1, 2026 – Acts 7:9-16
God's Grace in the Life of Joseph

Message for today – God uses believers everywhere throughout history to demonstrate His grace through their actions.

Stephen illustrates God's grace through the life of Joseph

When he was taken to Egypt and made a slave

Versions of Joseph's story are repeated throughout history

The family of Abraham removed from the land of promise (map)

The Psalmist writes of this time in history (Ps 105:7-25)

The story as a praise (Psalm 105) vs. use as a defense (Acts 7:9-16)

Implication that the Sanhedrin was the contemporary selfish patriarchs

Roots of the jealousy (Genesis 37:3-11)

Was anger building among the Sanhedrin? Can you sense it?

In the story of Joseph, "the worm turns," Acts 7:11 and Ps 105:16

Jacob seeks food (Acts 7:12-13)

Joseph responds graciously (Acts 7:14-15)

Stop and think: How much reason does Joseph have to be angry with his brothers?

Would harsh treatment be justified? Example of Solomon

Wondering – Joseph's brothers threw themselves on his mercy, but did Jacob actually give the instruction?

Implications for us

Reflections
Acts 7:9-16

Hear the Word

1. What is this passage telling me about who God is (His character, actions, attributes, Word)?
2. What does it tell me about Joseph in respect to mercy, grace, forgiveness and loving the brethren?
3. What purpose does the exile and Joseph serve in Stephen's sermon, based on what he includes or omits from Joseph's life?
4. What themes do I see here, and how do any of those connect with what I am currently facing?
5. How does this passage point me to Jesus, and help me to see the gospel more clearly?

Do the Word

1. How do my actions, thoughts, words or emotions need to change in light of this passage?
2. What evidence of God's work in my life do I need to thank and praise Him for?
3. How does my prayer life need to change as a result of this?
4. Do I see any other way that this should impact my worship of God?

Next Week: Acts 7:17-29