

Passage: Genesis 45

Title: Forgiveness

Summary: In our passage Joseph reveals himself to his brothers who had sold him into slavery some 22-year prior. They are shocked, and of course fearful for their sin has found them out, and they stand before Joseph who has the power to punish them to death if he so chooses. But Joseph will say to them, don't be grieved. Don't be troubled. In essence he is saying, I forgive you, I love you, I don't hold anything against you; so be free in these words that I give you so that we can have a relationship, be a family again, and be one. In this study we will see what a man/woman, who walks with God, does. This is who a man/woman... who sees themselves in light of who God is..... and what and how they respond..... they respond like God.

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) 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.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "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.

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, lets go for it, lets cut the lines, put the sails up, and lets live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, lets go for it, lets not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Last Study / They all Ate / Return to Canaan - Silver Cup / Return to Stand with Benjamin

In our last study we saw the sons of Jacob returning to Egypt to buy more grain, Joseph has them over to his home for dinner and they all ate and were merry, even when he gave Benjamin 5 times more than the other. So when they left to return to Canaan, Joseph tests them one more time by placing his silver cup, his divining cup in Benjamin's sack. They say whomever the cup is found will become a slave, and the rest can go home; but when the cup is revealed in Benjamin's sack rather than leaving him they all return together to Egypt, they stand with their youngest brother. We see a change in these brothers heart for they go from leaving Joseph to be a slave, to 22 years later to standing with Benjamin even if it means they become a slave. The testing and proving out is complete, and now Joseph will reveal himself to his brothers, and father Jacob will hear the news that he thought he would never hear, Joseph lives, and all the things you thought were against you, God was really working out for your good.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

(Genesis 45:1 NKJV) Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

Beauty of Reconciliation

Verse one, oh the beauty of reconciliation, Joseph can't contain himself. He's been breaking his heart waiting for this moment. Here we see they literally now, they've come to the place that it's settled, that they can reconcile, and Joseph doesn't wait, he runs to the reconciliation and extends the offer of race and mercy. Soaked and steeped in love. How about you, my friend? Are you ready to run the reconciliation? Are you ready to initiate reconciliation? Are you ready to pour yourself out? Make your cell

phone vulnerable to express your heart desire for reconciliation. So Joseph's doing, he's making himself vulnerable, but he's willing because it's worth it, because reconciliation is the very heart of God. Oh, how good and blessed it is when the brethren dwell together in unity.

(Genesis 45:2 NKJV) And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Verse 2, the invitation of tears, my heart is open to you.

(Genesis 45:3 NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

22 Years later / Watch the Video / Brothers – Doom & Longer Doom

Joseph clears the room, and lets it be known, I am Joseph. Some Twenty-two years later Joseph finally lets it out, I can't wait to watch the video on this one. Joseph's voice, his eyes, his body language; and then his brothers eyes and body language when they had heard, what a moment it must have been. Here these brothers are expecting imminent doom, and then to hear these words, I am Joseph your brother. Hmmmm, now rather than expecting imminent doom, they are now expecting long drawn out doom; wondering what type of torture methods the Egyptians have developed over the years, what type of revenge Joseph may have for them after 22 years of planning.

Of course, verse three. There'd be that place of fear that then you would come to the realization, oh, boy, I threw him into a pit, and when he cried for mercy, I gave him nothing. Now he has all the information of who we are, where we live, how our father is doing. There's no need for us. He could bring revenge. And they would have this element of fear that... Now Joseph is gonna kill them for the betrayal of putting him in that pit and then selling him into slavery. I'd be fearful, too. I'd be thinking I'm a dead man.

Benjamin hears for First Time

By the way this is the first time probably that Benjamin hears what happened to his older brother. We can only imagine what he is thinking.

Joseph always Thinking about the Father

Verse 3 - Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" - Joseph a picture of Jesus, always thinking of the Father. He says I am Joseph, does my father live. Immediately he asks how is dad. Jesus said:

(John 8:29 NKJV) "And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

(John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."

John 15:5 (NKJV)

⁵ "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

What a great prayer, by the way: ask the Lord, "What can I do today to please You?" In the midst of any situation, saying, "Lord, what can I do to please You?"—and you can be sure that the Lord will speak to you. And then, prayer is the declaration of our dependence on Him, saying, "Apart from You I can do nothing, Lord." But have you ever wondered how you're supposed to do something? Just look at the heart of the Father, and if you want to know what's the heart of the Father, look at Jesus, who said everything He did, He did by what He saw in the Father. So now we know the heart of the Father and the ways of the Father through the life and actions of Jesus Christ. Of everything He did, that's what He saw in the heart of the Father.

Joseph gained Strength thinking of Father / Picture for Us

I believe Joseph gain strength through the hard times, the lonely times, the struggles, that he gained strength to endure as he thought about his father, and held on to the hope of seeing him again. A picture for all of us, through the hard times of life may we gain strength as we look forward to seeing our Father. Often I find myself saying, soon I'll be home, I will hold Him, see Him face to face, and I find immediate comfort and peace.

*(2 Thessalonians 2:16 NKJV) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace,
(2 Thessalonians 2:17 NKJV) comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

(1 John 3:1 NKJV) Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

(Genesis 45:4 NKJV) And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt.

(Genesis 45:5 NKJV) "But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Insider Information

Verse 5, when he says, whom you sold into slavery into Egypt, that's the final revelation. Forget the Egyptian outfit, and the shaved head, and the mascara, and all these things that would have them puzzled in wonderment, he's gonna say something to them, that only one other person in the whole world would know. Benjamin doesn't even know this at this point. I'm Joseph, whom you sold into slavery.

Warm Invitation

And verse four, Joseph gives thee warm invitation come near to me. And he goes on to say, I'm your brother. Laying down that fear and dispelling the fear. Giving an invitation. The friendship and fellowship and communion, and oneness, and forgiveness, and mercy, and love, and grace. What a place that we have when we get to do that to somebody else and invite them to come near? And bring them a peace. that you can come near to me, and I'll cast you not away. And again, the picture, it's anyone here today. These are all pictures. of the heart of God, Joseph, a pitcher of Jesus, and are greater than Joseph. Jesus Christ says, come near. I am Jesus. Your brother, your friend, your savior. Your rescuer. And I hope today, if you feel that you can't come near, that you would feel the heart of God calling you, to draw near to God. that he wants to draw near to you. And his words, that all who come to me, I will by no means cast out. And the invitation to intimacy. With him, what a beautiful picture

John 6:35–37 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. ³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Speaking Hebrew – It's a New Man in Front of Them

At this point, Joseph, when he says, I am Joseph, would not be speaking through an interpreter, but would be speaking Hebrew directly. When he asks these things, which will totally stun them, because to them, it's literally a new person standing before them. They're processing all the past conversations that they had in front of him. In Hebrew, that they thought was probably private, and they come to the realization that he's heard them and understood everything they've been saying, but then to the greatest degree, they come to the place of... Hearing Hebrew coming out of his mouth, then hearing these next words, I am Joseph. Put yourself in that scenario. You'd be stunned, wouldn't you?

And remember that in their minds, we just read last chapter, they think he's dead. So they've come to that conclusion that he's dead. And so to hear his living voice is another load of bricks hitting upon their head that make them try to process all that is before them. Trying to make their minds transition to Seeing the man who looks like an Egyptian. And the last time we saw him, he was dressed in the coat of many colors, and now here he is in Egyptian garb. We think he's dead. Now he's here alive. He had broken bread with us. And then, to hear his voice come and speak, their dialect, that correlates that he's one of them, they are just blown away.

And it makes me think of the followers of Jesus on the day of his resurrection. You think of the...

Followers of Jesus after the resurrection. Last time I saw you, you couldn't even speak because your tongue was clinging to your roof from. Dying a thirst there upon the cross, you had been beaten beyond recognition. You were wearing nothing, your robe had been ripped off and destroyed. And now I look at you and hear you are. The only wounds that are left are the nails in your hands, the robe that you're wearing is fresh and clean, white as snow, no doubt. Your beard and hair are... whole and well, kempt,

and then you speak those words, thinking a dead man... can't speak, and then you speak those words to them, peace. Amazing. They would be in shock. No doubt, just like this situation.

Depict Heart of Jesus / Don't be Grieved for Your Faults

I love the words of Joseph, for they depict the heart of Jesus to us. Jesus would say don't be grieved, don't be angry with yourself, I know you are aware of so many faults and shortcomings in yourself, don't be grieved for I died for all your faults, all your failings past present and future:

(1 John 3:20 NKJV) For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Joseph said, don't be grieved. Don't be troubled. I forgive you I love you. I don't hold anything against you. Be free in these words that I give you so that we can have a relationship, be a family again, and be one. Here's what a man/woman, who walks with God, does. This is who a man/woman... who sees himself in light of who God is..... and what and how he responds.....Like God.

And then Joseph goes on, to say, God used what you did as wrong as it was, to send me ahead, to preserve you. That's just hard to even comprehend such a statement and means that God would do, just that, but he did. And here we are. We have the opportunity to get bitter, get broken. Resentful. And then regrettable, or we can say, all these things. that have been wronged onto me. I'm gonna let God use them to preserve somebody, to rescue somebody. to restore somebody to redeem somebody. That's what a man and woman of God, who knows their God, does and will do.

Jesus said on the Cross / Done in Ignorance

Let me also add here, what Jesus said when He hung on the cross, Peter would say:

(Luke 23:34 NKJV) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

(Acts 3:17 NKJV) "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

(Acts 17:30 NKJV) "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Habitual Sin / Things we have Done – Did in Ignorance / Don't beat Self

Let me first say if you are living in a habitual sin that I hope God chastens you to the point of repentance. But you know there are things that you may have done before you were saved, or while you were still growing in the Lord as a babe in Christ, things you are greatly ashamed of, things you still struggle with that you are truly forgiven of. Maybe it was an abortion, sexual behavior, adultery, murder, hooking another friend in to drugs that has ruined their lives, whatever it may have been, the Lord says you did them in ignorance, you didn't know, don't continue to beat yourself up over them.

Amazing – As wretched as they Were – Turned us to Christ / Wrath to Love

You know what is amazing, that as sinful and wretched as some of those things may be, they were the turning point to bring us to Christ. Just like in this story, God used it (enslavement of Joseph) to preserve life. How gracious a God we serve. Rather than bringing wrath upon us for those things, He brings forgiveness, mercy, and love. He offers fellowship with Him, when He has every right to offer us hell and eternal damnation.

This is love, a wonderful, beautiful, God of love He is, blessed be His name.

Freest Man in the Room

Once again, the freest person in this room is none other than Joseph. As we rest in the sovereignty of God, even in the things we don't understand, yeah. Even though you sold me, the sovereignty of God was there, and he allowed that, and here he is doing the work, were those 20 years hard? Absolutely. But was God's hand upon me? Absolutely as well. And Joseph had the intimacy of the Lord by resting in the sovereignty of God, but his brothers for 20 years had no rest and no peace. A guilty conscience when they tried to play and be the sovereign God by saying this is what we'll do with this dreamer. And they were the ones who ended up in the sea of regret, but Joseph didn't allow himself to become in the sea of bitterness choked out. He accepted the hand of God, the sovereignty of God, and he became the man of

God. And so too will you. And I don't diminish what hurt you. I don't diminish how you've been wronged. But if God would do it for Joseph, could he not do it for you?

Christian – Free Them With Forgiveness

Just think of Joseph didn't forgive. The story would end in this verse. The world would have been changed forever. But here, because he forgives, the story is eternal. Written in the heavens for everyone to see the blessings that come with a man or woman whose God is the Lord.

Forgiveness can change the world.

(Genesis 45:6 NKJV) "For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

Joseph 39 / Number of Grace

So Joseph is 39 which the number for mercy in the Bible. 40 is the number for judgement; 40 days of rain for the flood, 40 years in the wilderness for the nation Israel, and it would be 40 stripes across the back (scourging) for a criminal and if they wanted to show mercy they would minus one, 39. The apostle Paul saw such mercy:

(2 Corinthians 11:24 NKJV) From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one.

Jesus takes full 40 – Full Wrath

Our Jesus would have taken the full 40, for He took the full wrath of God's fury against sin, so that we may receive the full pardon, which is mercy:

(1 John 2:1 NKJV) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

(1 John 2:2 NKJV) And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Propitiation / Appease - Satisfy

Verse 2 - And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins - Our Advocate is also the propitiation of our sins and the sins of the whole world. Propitiation means to appease and satisfy an offended power.

Whatever it takes to satisfy the power, the propitiation has met the requirement. Whether that is money, property, flesh and blood, the propitiation has met the requirement.

(Genesis 45:7 NKJV) "And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

(Genesis 45:8 NKJV) "So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Joseph saying God at Work / Lord in it from Beginning

Joseph is saying hey, God is at work; He put me in this position to save you. If I wasn't here, then there would not have been any grain, for God revealed the revelation of what was going to happen in the land to me, and He set me here to preserve the world and you. The Lord was in it from the beginning:

(Psalms 105:16 NKJV) Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread.

(Psalms 105:17 NKJV) He sent a man before them; Joseph; who was sold as a slave.

(Psalms 105:18 NKJV) They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons.

(Psalms 105:19 NKJV) Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.

(Psalms 105:20 NKJV) The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free.

(Psalms 105:21 NKJV) He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions,

Joseph Already Determined – God was at Work

Joseph will say for God, because he's already, before this moment, has determined, that God can work all things together for good. Not that all things are good, but that God can work all things together for good, and he will make that statement for God. sent me ahead of you. And that's why I can rest that God has seen this. I'm in God's hands, and he has taken this, and he's going to use this, and I can rest in it.

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ 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.

Notice in verse 5- 7, they repeated reference to God, to God, to God, as Joseph is clearly tying. This whole situation ties to God. Though man is involved in the middle of it, the whole situation is governed by God, and there Jacob, his name becomes Israel, and it means governed by God, but here we see that God is making the name passed down to the sons, and the 1st son who's going to get it. Is Joseph to be governed by God in every situation. Now, God is using this situation to bring all the brothers into the place to be governed by God. And he's forging a nation. And that's what the Lord does. In a nation whose God is the Lord. That's what the Lord does in a family who is governed by God, that it's passed down, and the whole family knows they're governed by God. That's what God does in a church when the whole church comes and knows that this church is governed by God, and therefore, what does the Lord have for us, and where is he leading us? Let us be governed by God. What a beautiful picture spoken of here.

110 Years no Bitter Word

Joseph lives to be 110 years old, he comprises 25% of the book of Genesis, yet we never read of one word of bitterness coming from his mouth over all the injustice that was done to him. Joseph is a picture of a life that was totally committed and trusted to the Lord. What an example for all of us.

Like a Father

And then here is another amazing statement by Joseph that he became like a father, the pharaoh, who no doubt was most likely older than him, but historically, it's hard to tell. Joseph, possibly, um, could have been the same age or younger as there were younger pharaohs in this time, but it appears that this pharaoh would have been older than Joseph, but nonetheless, The wisdom that flowed from Joseph, and just the manner of his person, and how he emanated the governing by God, that Pharaoh recognized something different and something special in Joseph that he would be humble enough to listen to Joseph. Like a son would listen to a father because the wise son goes, my dad has experience in wisdom, and then in a godly home, a son who goes, my dad walks with the Lord. My dad yields his knee to the Lord. And what my dad says is worth listening and then applying onto my life personally. And Joseph was like a father, the pharaoh.

(Genesis 45:9 NKJV) "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry."

(Genesis 45:10 NKJV) "You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have."

(Genesis 45:11 NKJV) "There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine."

5 years to Go / Brothers wouldn't Know

See Joseph says come down here where the food is, for there is still 5 more years to go of this famine. The boys and Jacob would not have known how much longer the famine would have lasted, but Joseph does, and he shares it with them, and we will see them packaging up and moving to Egypt based on Joseph's word which came from the Lord.

Sad When People won't Heed the Warning / No bread – No Nourishment / Beauty when Do

You know, it is sad when people don't pack up and move when they are giving a word that came from the Lord. How often we have seen people heading toward destruction in their lives, and we said you are going the wrong way, you are living in the land of famine, there is no Bread of Life (Jesus Christ) where you are living at, and you are going to face hard times, maybe even destruction. Hear the Word of the Lord; hear His Words of life so that you may be nourished and strengthened, but they refuse and we watch them go down. But how beautiful it is when we tell them this word, and they respond, and they go on to wonderful things with the Lord.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

(Genesis 45:12 NKJV) "And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you."

(Genesis 45:13 NKJV) "So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

Tell Dad what you have Seen / Youth Bless Parents

Tell dad what you have seen in me. Isn't wonderful for a dad and mom to hear that their child is doing well. You youth, may you bless your parents heart as they hear about how you are doing well in the things of the Lord. Ohh it is the perfect gift to them, don't worry about Christmas gift, birthday, mothers day and fathers day, do well and they will be blessed.

Bless Father in Heaven

And, do you want to bless your Father in Heaven, let Him hear (if you would) how well you are doing in your walk, and He will be blessed.

So too for Me

So too for me, thank you for the Pastor's appreciation, but please no need for a gift next year, just let me hear that you are doing well:

(3 John 1:2 NKJV) Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

(3 John 1:3 NKJV) For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.

(3 John 1:4 NKJV) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

(Genesis 45:14 NKJV) Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck.

(Genesis 45:15 NKJV) Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Forgiveness brings Fellowship / Same in Marriage and Friendships

Notice this, forgiveness brings sweet fellowship. Joseph forgave his brothers, he had no bitterness towards them, thus they could have sweet fellowship together. The same holds true in your marriage, in your friendships, and in your church.

Verse 15, Joseph, as he kisses each of his brothers, and it's just a beautiful picture in that, I see, a picture of Joseph's prayer over each brother. Can prayer of words ever supersede the prayer of tears when someone has no words to say, they just draw, you, or you draw them, and they weep, and their heart is breaking forth and overflowing. You don't even need words to know the heart that is before you, the heart that feels for you and just how the heart of that person loves and adores you. And of course, my heart breaks sometimes when I think of Jesus wept over Jerusalem because he knew what was coming, and yet they would not receive him, and then there's a place that Jesus wept, when he heard Lazarus was dead, but he was weeping because of the sister's heart breaking, and then he shows up, and speaks. those words, Lazarus come forth, he calls him out of the grave, just beautiful pictures of the Lord weeping, and tears that he has, for us, but with tears, when we have no words in our prayer, but just simply tears.

(Genesis 45:16 NKJV) Now the report of it was heard in Pharaoh's house, saying, "Joseph's brothers have come." So it pleased Pharaoh and his servants well.

(Genesis 45:17 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and depart; go to the land of Canaan.

(Genesis 45:18 NKJV) 'Bring your father and your households and come to me; I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you will eat the fat of the land.

(Genesis 45:19 NKJV) 'Now you are commanded; do this: Take carts out of the land of Egypt for your little ones and your wives; bring your father and come.

(Genesis 45:20 NKJV) 'Also do not be concerned about your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

Take the U-hauls

Hey take these U-hauls and get your stuff and get down here.

I love it. Pharaoh's happy, excited because he loves Joseph. He knows Joseph's story. And he was highly favored by Pharaoh. Pharaoh saw the faithfulness of Joseph to him, and he just wanted blessings upon

him because he's seen that the Spirit of God was upon him. And it's beautiful when the world looks and sees, not prosperity, but peace and beauty. upon us.

And you know what? I don't think these servants who drove the carts, were upset. I think they loved picking up Joseph's family. I think there's something to be said for all of us. What a joy that we help load up the carts with God's people and bring them into God's land and God's love. And we get to be steering that cart part of the glory of what God did in their lives, and we got to be a part of it in some way because we simply were willing to.

(Genesis 45:21 NKJV) Then the sons of Israel did so; and Joseph gave them carts, according to the command of Pharaoh, and he gave them provisions for the journey.

(Genesis 45:22 NKJV) He gave to all of them, to each man, changes of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five changes of garments.

Benjamin extra Blessings / Recognize Forgiveness Forget Fairness / Riches of America

Benjamin gets extra blessing, and none of the brother's care. When you recognize forgiveness, you'll be blinded to fairness. You won't be worried about getting yours, you'll be glad with what you got, thankful for what you have. I realize that there are Christians living in foreign lands who have nothing, maybe less than nothing for they are persecuted for their faith to boot, and what can I say to that. I'm am rich beyond measure when I consider that. How easy is it to forget all the riches we have being American, we even complain about our lives, yet we are so richly blessed compared to other brothers and sisters in this world.

When we Recognize Father Forgiveness / See Everything else as Blessing

When we recognize God's forgiveness, His full pardon to us, we will look at everything we have and say Father, you forgave me, you promise me eternal life, and then on top of it You give me this job, this spouse, a place to live, food on the table, oh Lord you are too good to me.

(Genesis 45:23 NKJV) And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey.

(Genesis 45:24 NKJV) So he sent his brothers away, and they departed; and he said to them, "See that you do not become troubled along the way."

Joseph says to them don't faint now, you're almost home. That's a word for us. We're almost home. Don't lighten up now. Finish it off, beloved brothers and sisters.

Don't Fall Short – Don't Turn / Everything Need for Journey / Christian stay Strong

Verse 24 - See that you do not become troubled along the way. - Joseph said to them I have given you everything you need for the journey, don't fall short along the way. Don't turn to the left or the right, stay straight the course. Jesus would say to us today I have given you everything you need for the journey, don't turn to the left or the right, don't fall short, stay the course. Oh Christian please don't fade away, fall to the back of the pack, please stay the course, finish strong. It is such a bummer to watch Christian who once walked strong have fallen away, went back to the things of the flesh, it's so sad to see it. Christian don't you quit, don't you fade, don't let the cares of the world choke you out:

(Luke 8:11 NKJV) "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

(Luke 8:12 NKJV) "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

(Luke 8:13 NKJV) "But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away.

(Luke 8:14 NKJV) "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

(Luke 8:15 NKJV) "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

Beautiful to Watch Christians

It is beautiful to watch the Christian who continues, stays the course, and it is just natural for them to produce fruit because they are rooted and grounded in faith, they have kept their eyes focused and fixed on Him:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Genesis 45:25 NKJV) Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father.

Long Ride (3 weeks)

Verse 25, just one verse, within that one versus 3 weeks, these boys have three weeks for a long ride back to the father's home, and one of the things they will have to do as joyous as every moment is, they're gonna have to come clean before their father. and say we did this, we lied to you for 22 years. We let you suffer these things, but now there's only one thing that we can possibly do is tell you the truth, and it's a lot easier to do once you've been given mercy to come clean and have a fresh start. See the work of God, it's easier to do once you experience mercy. But they will come to their father and they'll have the ask for mercy again. But the beautiful thing of it all is mercy will be easy for Jacob because his son is alive. He's not gonna care about anything else other than Joseph is alive. He'll let the 20 years be wiped away for the three week journey that's before him, they can't get done soon enough to see his son.

(Genesis 45:26 NKJV) And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them.

(Genesis 45:27 NKJV) But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived.

(Genesis 45:28 NKJV) Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Saw the Carts

Joseph sends all the treasures to Canan, even though they're coming back to Egypt. You think he could have them just waiting for them, but he sends them forth, so that they know a glimpse of what waits for them in Egypt, and to bolster Jacob's faith, that everything that your sons are telling you about me being alive and 2nd in command is true, and here's the wealth proves it, especially during a famine. But you come down to Egypt and you'll see the more. I'm just giving you a glimpse. of what is ahead, and that's the picture of the Lord with us. The, Treasures that he gives us, the spiritual inheritance of today and our faith, is just a glimpse of what awaits us in heaven, and it's a spiritual inheritance, not a physical treasure that distracts us, but, uh, spiritual inheritance of the promise of the fruit of the spirit. that we can partake and who needs gold in the middle of a famine. What I want is the fruit of the spirit. Give me a basket of oranges and apples, and the best fruits of the land, give me the fruit of the Holy Spirit, of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. And when I have that as a glimpse of today, oh, what I know, the final heaven, sure, what I would be transformed into, just the taste of what we have, which is amazing. Church.

Galatians 5:22 (NKJV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Jacob Revived When heard Joseph Alive

Jacob was revived when he heard his son was alive. Jacob was alive when he would see Joseph face to face and hear his voice. And I think there's something here for all of us. Maybe we need to revive a loved one in our life, and might be a mother or a father. They just hear our voice, that we're alive, and that we love them, and that we see them. And we're praying hope upon them and blessing.

No Pain God Cant Heal

There is no pain that God can't heal to set you free, that you can go on with your life. It's written here for our... learning and our illustration. of what God can do.

And see, the world doesn't have this. And that's why they will sit and spend a whole life and point to those that harmed them. Thus, excusing themselves why they have to do what they do, why they can't get up and move on, because they can never move on from that past and that moment. It said, remember them in your prayer. Pray that God would open a door that you get to tell them....You can move on, here's the story of Joseph and here's my story of what God did in my life.

He says (back in verses 4-5), do not grieve. What an amazing man he is, that he's more concerned about their hearts hurting right now. Even though, what they've done, and that he's giving this amazing grace and mercy to them. And he's speaking. Don't let your past ruin this moment of joy that we're having. The past is behind us. Let's enjoy the moment that we have and so many Christians just don't want to do that. You know, you can have 30 years of pain and you can live in that past and be robbed by your present because of those 30 years, but I'm telling you, God has the ability and is more than able to make your next year greater than the sum total of all the great things that happened in 30 years, because that's what he does. That's who he is. You should receive that. from that person and vice versa. Just make your next year's your greatest years. Jesus talks. And John 2. The wedding and the wedding. facilitator says, you've saved the best for last and that's what he does. Our Lord, he saves the best for last. And he can do that for you today. Why not just receive it?

John 2:9-10 (NKJV)⁹ When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰ And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"

Unbelief didn't stop the Carts

Jacob's unbelief did not stop the wagon carts loaded with blessings from coming!

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need