

Genesis 43-45 – 20 February 2020

“When Life Is Bigger Than We Are”

Introduction

Joseph, of 12 sons of Jacob, was just sold into slavery

Joseph risen to leadership in Egypt b/c of Godly character.

10 of his 11 brothers came from Canaan b/c of famine

Joseph knew them but they didn't know him

Joseph imprisoned Simeon, told them bring Benjamin

Jacob, their father, says, no way you're going back.

They're in a famine, Joseph is dead (supposedly),

Simeon is imprisoned.... there are times *when Life is bigger than we are.*

Jacob's sons have not lived a very godly life, but in their 1st visit to Egypt they seemed to show remorse.

Have they truly repented? What will they do now?

Tonight, 3 lessons for when life is bigger than we are.

#1 – When life is bigger than you, **Let God redirect our goals and plans (Chap 43)**

Chap 43:1-14 – Israel changes plans at a personal risk

1. Read Vs 1-5

- a. Judah reminds Jacob of the problem w/ going back to Egypt.
- b. Jacob is facing a situation that's compelling he to make a change just to stay alive.
- c. Jacob doesn't want to lose Benjamin.
- d. The hand of God is seeking to mold their paths in life.

2. Read Vs 6-10

- a. Judah steps up to accept the personal risk onto himself. (It was his idea to sell Joseph)
- b. Judah is willing to make a big decision.
- c. Not Pragmatism
 - i. Yes they're lives' are being moving by the circumstances they're faced with.
 - ii. But they're making Godly decisions thruout

3. Read Vs 11-14

- a. When the decision is made, go hard after it.
- b. They had sweets but not essentials like corn
- c. Vs 14 – Changes involve a walk of faith

Chap 43:15-25 – Bros tell Joseph's steward of money

1. Read Vs 15-18

- a. They think their fears are coming true
- b. These moments make you choose openness or hiding

2. Read Vs 19-25

- a. They choose openness and honesty
- b. Their future plans are now being directed by candor and openness
 - i. The opposite isn't true
 - ii. Their amt of candor and openness isn't being driven by having a set plan.

Chap 43:26-34 – Joseph shows knowledge/kindness

- 1. Joseph set bros in order showing knowledge
- 2. Joseph favors Benjamin testing bros reaction

#2 – When life is bigger than you, **Let it drive you to confession, openness & honesty (Chap 44)**

Chap 44:1-17 – Joseph’s final plan to ID repentance

1. Read Vs 1-5
 - a. The cup he uses to divine *or prophesy*
 - i. This practice would be forbidden in Law
 - ii. The point is...it’s a special cup
 - b. How they treat Benjamin? Have they changed?
 - i. They weren’t jealous when 5 times food
 - ii. But would they protect, when harm comes?
2. Read Vs 6-13
 - a. Their hearts are ready to be open about all
 - b. Vs 9 – They’re united in their honesty
3. Read Vs 14-17
 - a. “How can we clear our names?” – They’re simply asking for mercy.
 - b. God has changes them from being jealous of Joseph’s plans & dreams, into being content having God change even their plans & dreams

Chap 44:18-34 – Judah becomes the intercessor

1. Read Vs 18-34
 - a. Judah tells Joseph of his pledge to protect and substitute for Benjamin.
 - b. This is the man that didn't keep his pledge to Tamar, to give his son Shelah to marry.
 - c. There were other options for Judah
 - i. Run away from family, start his own life.
 - ii. Go home, forsaking his oath
 - d. Judah literally sacrifices his own life for Benjamin.
 - i. At this moment Judah considers life over
 - ii. He assumes he'll be Egypt's slave forever
2. How long was Joseph intending to test their repentance?
 - a. Don't know
 - b. But this was all he could take.
 - c. When this time happened, he knew their repentance was true.

#3 – When life is bigger than you, **Give God glory for how He’s weaving together an amazing plan (Chap 45)**

Chap 45:1-8 – I am Joseph, see what God has done!

1. Read Vs 1-4

- a. They’re stunned as to how this could be
- b. Perspective
 - i. When you’re going thru a hard road & life’s overwhelming (like Joseph), it’s a mystery why these things are happening.
 - ii. When you’re on the outside looking in at someone’s amazing journey (as Joseph’s bros), it’s a mystery how these things happened.
 - iii. But now read verse 5-8

2. Read Vs 5-8

- a. When we come to the end of a certain length of road, THEN we can see HOW & WHY these things are happening!
- b. Giving God the glory involves trusting in what God is yet working out.

Chap 45:9-15 – Go bring all Israel to Goshen, Egypt

1. Read Vs 9-15

- a. Part of the specific blessing of God is that Israel can move to Egypt to be blessed during the years of famine.
- b. It took 22 years of being apart from his family, and now he gains even that back!

Chap 45:16-24 – Pharaoh blesses Israel b/c of Joseph

1. Read Vs 16

- a. When God weaves a plan together (that we couldn't weave together), God's fame is spread
- b. God desires, not for our efforts, but for His efforts to be talked about and bragged about.

2. Read Vs 17-24

- a. Trust has been regained
 - i. Joseph knew he could trust them w/ all these riches and that they WOULD return.
 - ii. It takes time but trust can be restored.
- b. God delights to give repenters His treasure.

Chap 45:25-28 – Jacob receives the incredible news!!

1. Read Vs 25-26

- a. Once this family repented and started walking in honesty & openness, they allowed for God to start working on their behalf.
- b. We need to do the same.
 - i. This will allow for God to do the “unbelievable” on our behalf.

2. Read Vs 27-28

- a. God’s work is so amazing, Jacob may not have believed had he not seen the wagons!
- b. Although Joseph’s instructions in vs 9 was “tarry not”, we’ll see Jacob has one stop to make on the way to Egypt.
 - i. He stops to praise and worship God

Conclusion –

Today we've learned some lessons for those seasons
When Life Is Bigger Than You:

1. **Let God redirect our goals and plans.**
 - a. If life is forcing you in a certain direction, it may just be God doing it.
 - b. How do you know? Can you walk down that road with integrity and faith?
2. **Let the overwhelmingness of life drive you to confession, openness & honesty.**
 - a. Read John 8:31b-32
 - b. Freedom comes, not from walking a specific path you've laid out, but from walking in truth
3. **Give God glory for how He's weaving together an amazing plan**
 - a. God weaves together the good and bad
 - b. It will always be a walk of faith to trust that God is working His will. Trust Him.