

Grace That Restores Fellowship

Life of Joseph Series – Part 9

Text: Genesis 43:25–26; 44:18, 33 (KJV)

Introduction

- Promise → Suffering → Providence → Fulfillment
- Joseph's dream realized; Judah's heart revealed

Genesis 43:26 – “...they bowed themselves to him to the earth.”

I. THE JOY THAT SUSTAINS THROUGH SUFFERING

- God's promises will come to pass

Habakkuk 2:3 – “...though it tarry, wait for it...”

- Faith holds in dark seasons

Genesis 39:21 – “But the LORD was with Joseph...”

2 Corinthians 5:7 – “For we walk by faith, not by sight:”

- Christ endured for future joy

Hebrews 12:2 – “...for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...”

- Present suffering is not final

Romans 8:18 – “...not worthy to be compared with the glory...”

II. THE TEST THAT REVEALS THE HEART

- God revisits what needs to change

Ecclesiastes 3:15 – “...God requireth that which is past.”

- God looks at the heart

1 Samuel 16:7 – “...the LORD looketh on the heart.”

- Guard your heart

Proverbs 4:23 – “Keep thy heart with all diligence...”

III. THE REPENTANCE THAT PRODUCES RESTORATION

Genesis 44:33 – “...let thy servant abide instead of the lad...”

Marks of Genuine Repentance:

- Confession

Proverbs 28:13 – “...confesseth and forsaketh...”

- Restitution

Luke 19:8 – “...I restore him fourfold.”

- Sacrifice

John 15:13 – “...lay down his life...”

- Broken spirit

Psalms 51:17 – “A broken and a contrite heart...”

Substitution Picture:

- Judah → Benjamin
- Jesus Christ → Us

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “...made him to be sin for us...”

IV. THE GRACE THAT RESTORES FELLOWSHIP

- God revives the humble

Isaiah 57:15 – “...to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

- God forgives the repentant

1 John 1:9 – “...faithful and just to forgive...”

- God delights in mercy

Micah 7:18 – “...he delighteth in mercy.”

- God restores fellowship

2 Corinthians 5:18 – "...reconciled us to himself..."

Application

- Am I trusting God's promise in hardship?
- What is God revealing in my heart?
- Is my repentance producing change?

Lamentations 3:22–23 – "...great is thy faithfulness."

Key Truth

**God allows the test to reveal the heart,
so His grace can restore the fellowship.**