

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT – GENESIS 45:1-28

INTRODUCTION:

In tracing the life of Joseph we can now see a great deal of God's purpose in that man's life. From 17 being sold into Egypt into Potiphar's house being falsely accused of a crime that he did not commit. Serving a sentence in prison. And then through interpretation of the Pharaoh's dreams he was elevated to second in command. In that position during 7 good years he implemented economic policies that make us just stand in utter amazement that he can sustain the nation for 7 bad years of crisis plus a number of the countries around that also are facing that same crisis.

The famine hurt Canaan as much as it did Egypt. And so Jacob sends the boys down to buy grain. On the first journey they do not take Benjamin. They are given grain and Simeon is held hostage and they are told to go get Benjamin and bring him back. Jacob is very resistant and fights that but eventually in the midst of the crisis because they are starving to death he says, "I am bereaved, take Benjamin and go."

And on the second journey Joseph invites them to his house to have lunch. And after lunch in the time together he tells the steward to put this cup in Benjamin's sack. That cup was put in the sack and in

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the episode this morning Benjamin was the one to be found with the goods.

But Judah is the one that we left interceding before Joseph and his intercession basically is this. “My dad is old. My brother’s life and my father’s life are intertwined to the degree that they are bound together. If we go back without Benjamin my dad will die. Please do not make me do that. Instead I have a counterproposal.”

And I will pick up the reading so we can flow right into the passage.

Genesis 44:30-34

So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy’s life, sees that the boy isn’t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’ Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father.”

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Well the big question has been answered. The tests have been passed. And now it is time for a real revelation. If in fact the fourth born Judah would do that for his brother Benjamin then there has been a conversion among the boys. There is love, unity, and solidarity. And because of that conversion, because of that change he is now ready to reveal himself to his brothers.

As the result of the change in the brothers, Joseph has had all of his questions answered. Now comes the very emotional time of revelation.

v. 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.

You see he was so deeply touched when Judah said, "Let me stay. Let Benjamin go. That would be great. I don't mind spending the rest of my life in Egypt serving a foreign Pharaoh if Benjamin can go home." That just tore him up and he is so deeply moved as a result of Judah's manifestation of the spirit of contrition and brokenness and Joseph just cannot hold it back anymore.

He does not want to embarrass his brothers among the all the officials because this is a family affair and so he tells everybody else, "leave, let me be alone here with my brothers."

Can you imagine it? If someone walked up to you today and revealing Himself told you that He was in fact Jesus Christ come back in human flesh. The shock of it would be overwhelming. And that is probably just a little bit of what is getting ready to happen in the passage that is coming before us.

v. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

And now you say, "What in the world is wrong with this guy?" Twenty-two years away from them, has been dumped in a foreign society, had to learn a new language like a missionary who has been in a foreign field for twenty-two years and never been allowed to come home and be on furlough and see anybody he knows. And here these past number of months and years while these two visits have taken place he has seen them, he has longed to go to them, he has restrained himself until the questions can be answered, and when the time comes you just fall apart.

This is just like the tears at a funeral. People cry when someone is gone. Not because we do not believe they are with the Lord but we are just going to miss them. Same thing is true at a wedding. When you have to turn loose of that kid that has been such a pain, finally once realize you really loved them after all and do not want them to leave.

Here Joseph has been holding this all in. Time to do a little crying here. It is difficult.

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He knows it is time for RECONCILIATION and REVELATION and because of that the tears flow freely

v. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! [You can’t just see him. Tears running down his cheek. He can’t say anymore, just get that much out. “I am Joseph.” And then] Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

You can imagine it is one thing to stand before an Egyptian Pharaoh and you have the silver cup in your hand and you are guilty. And it is another thing to stand before your brother who is the Egyptian Pharaoh whom you sold into Egypt 22 years ago. And who certainly with normal human nature would have so much bitterness and resentment that now he gets a chance to drop the ax because you laughed at his dreams. He would certainly put it to you. Now that would be normal. And so they are scarred to death at what happens.

Joseph said, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” And they are terrified in his presence.”

v. 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!

You see they literally fell back away when he starts weeping controllably. They cannot understand it. You know I thought about it.

You know sometimes you just have an inkling that this is going to be one of those days when it just nothing going to turn out right. And you just got that kind of inclination inside. Can you even begin to think at all about the traumatic emotional upheaval these fellows have gone through in the last ten hours? I mean they got up singing “My Lord Knows the Way Through the Wilderness” and they are heading out of town home with all the grain and provision. Two hours later the flashing gumball machines say come on back somebody stole something. And then they go into the presence of the Egyptian Pharaoh and it turns out to be their brother Joseph. Now tell me, can you handle those kind of emotional upheavals all at once in one day and come out smelling like a bunch of roses? They are made of something and what they are going through is simply incredible.

“I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!” The boys can begin to put the pieces together and truly recognize Joseph and his Egyptian ruler. I think he probably took off his hat and looked at them and they began to see familiar family lines in his face.

v. 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.

Wow!

1. Don't be distressed.

2. **Don't be angry with yourselves. Don't worry. I'm not bitter. I'm not resentful.**

The reason is and the reason I have victory right now and I can look you straight in the face and say, I love you unconditionally and I have no feelings about what you did to me is because I understand God had a purpose in all of this. He sent me. You might have sold me but God sent me ahead of you to save lives.

Did you ever stop to think that maybe the cure to some of the problems you have in personal relationships with people is because you are looking at those people strictly on the horizontal level rather than seeing them as a gift from God to make you into what you need to become? When you start looking at every person who comes into your life as a gift from God, a sacred trust to make you a better person, and when they come into your life and they affect your life in one way or the other you can be triumphant in those circumstances when you recognize that those people were put there by sovereign intervention to make a contribution to your life.

Now granted there are times when some people come into our lives that we are glad when they go you know and we want to learn our lessons quick. Because we just do not fit together but God had some purpose for that.

Romans 8:28

God is working all things together for good.

You see it is when we can see everything in our lives from the vertical perspective and we see it the ultimate accomplishment of His purpose then we can forgive the instruments that He is using.

“You sold me” “God sent me” is the classic statement of providential control.

And the discipline of Egypt has been for a purpose. Do not be grieved and do not be angry with yourselves that you sold me, for God did send me to preserve life.

v. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping.

All right you see you have a verse like that and you can figure out immediately Joseph is 39 years of age. We have gone through 7 good ones and we are in the midst, we have had 2 bad ones, we have 5 years left to go. Joseph is 39. It has been 22 years that he has been down here. He has been in office 9 years serving that land of Egypt.

v. 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.

Of course the deliverance he is talking about is the deliverance of the next five years. If they stayed in Canaan they would die as we are going to see. If they will come to Egypt there is a provision for them. God has made all of that possible.

v. 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.

You know something there? “God sent me” and “God made me.” God sent me down here in the position I have. God made me that ruler in the land. He is in all the events of my life so I can tell you I have got a great sense of FREEDOM and FORGIVENESS as I am receptive of the fact that everything is permitted by a loving father for my good.

An interesting thing that I have noted in the New Testament that when some of the great leaders of the New Testament got ready to die they always were very careful to be sure their forgiveness was always up-to-date.

The Apostle Paul in the last letter he pens in 2 Timothy 4 says, “Bring John Mark with you because he is profitable to me for the ministry.” He and John had a clash as a result of him finking out on the first missionary journey and going home.

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Peter had the same problem with Paul. When he writes 2 Peter he says, “Read Paul’s epistles, they are hard to understand but they have great truths.” You know the two men got their hearts right.

Is your forgiveness up-to-date? Do you know in your heart that everything is right between you and your fellowman? How critical a thing that is. Do you realize that you could be sitting in this room right now with a heart resistant of forgiveness, resentful, and bitterness and can affect this whole body as the Spirit of God is restrained to flow among us until those things are made right?

What a tribute, to always be remembered as a person who was a forgiver?

And what do we think about when we think of Joseph? Forgiveness.

I was reading a book the other day about Leonardo da Vinci when he was painting “The Last Supper.” He became very angry at a certain man. He lost his temper and he lashed out at the other fellow with bitter words and threats and then he returned to his canvas and he started to paint the face of Jesus, but he was unable to do so. He had to put up his paints and he was so upset he had to go find that man, make it right with him and only then could he come back and paint the face of Jesus Christ.

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Leslie Flynn put it this way:

Joseph's forgiveness was full and free. That same spirit of willingness to forgive those, who have wronged us deeply, should be present in every believer. Newspapers around the country took note in January 1978, when Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bristol of Dearborn, Michigan, used part of their vacation to visit an inmate at the California Men's Penal Colony near San Luis Obispo. This prisoner had been found guilty of raping and murdering their 21-year-old daughter, Diane, in 1970 when she was selling encyclopedia's door-to-door in San Diego. The Bristols felt the normal human reactions of anguish and grief, but they also knew somebody had done something terribly wrong and needed the Lord. When the murderer was sentenced, they wanted him to know they had no hatred in their hearts for him, so they arranged to meet him. The Bristols spent over three hours with him. At the end they embraced each other. The prisoner commented, "I'm not a born-again Christian, and I do not want to make that commitment until I can really mean it from the bottom of my heart -- like you." To those who don't understand their actions, the Bristols reply, "If God can forgive acts like King David's sins of adultery and murder, I guess we can too. We don't condone the prisoner's actions and realize he has a debt to pay to society, but we personally have forgiven him completely."

Joseph says, "Don't be distressed. Don't be upset. You just sold me. You were an instrument. That's all."

God sent me.”

v. 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.

I love this. Hurry up there, get dad and bring him down here. And then he puts down the words “Don’t delay.” He realizes how long it took between the first trip back up there and the second trip because dad was sitting on his hands over not being willing to surrender Benjamin. He knows his old dad pretty well. He knows he is a pretty stubborn fellow. And so he says, “Go get him, don’t delay, time is of an essence.”

v. 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.

Now Goshen as nearly as I can tell on the map is about 75 miles north of Memphis in the Nile Delta region. It is a very rich region. The Nile river of course is the big river that flows through the land into the Mediterranean Sea and it is the primary source of irrigation and water supply. Goshen is a rich delta that is north. It is about 25 miles south of the Mediterranean Sea but in the northern part of Egypt. He is going to give them some great land and so he wants them to come and to live.

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v. 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.'

Listen to this “I will provide for you there.” Joseph is saying, “Fellows this is the last trip south to get grain to be sustained in Canaan. Your provision is going to be sent to Goshen from this time forward. Now y’all have got a choice. You can stay in Canaan and starve to death. Or you can come to come to where your provision is in the land of Goshen.”

Now I have seen that in some other places as well.

In 1 Kings 17 after Elijah simply makes the statement to Ahab that there is not going to be any rain for 3-1/2 years God says to Elijah go to the brook Cherith and drink there and I will send my ravens there with bread in the morning or food in the morning and food in the evening. “I will provide for you there.” Now Elijah has a choice. He can go back to Gilead and starve to death in the famine or he can go to the brook Cherith where the provision is being sent. You see when you are really the most happy and the most blessed is when you are here in the place He wants you to be not there in the place of your choosing.

Now Jacob could hang on for dear life, try to survive in Canaan. There will no provision for him there.

Maybe God is speaking to you just very clearly right now. You are having a hard time where you are. And the problem is you are here and God meant for you to be there. And the ravens of your provision are being sent there.

Joseph said to them, “I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise if you don’t come, you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute. There will be no way that your need can be met in that land.”

v. 12 You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you.

Why does he single out Benjamin? You see because Benjamin is his only blood brother. You can see that it is I that is speaking to you. And the love toward Benjamin is just very special because they both are sons of Rachel who is now passed away.

v. 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.”

First of all, do not delay and then get high behind. Get him here quickly. It is very, very important.

Having made the revelation it is now time for constructive reconciliation.

v. 14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.

I just cannot believe in my wildest dreams the trauma of emotions that Benjamin has been through just in this short day, can you? I mean here he was early in the morning going back to the land with provision for his ten kids and his wife. And then just a little ways out of the city he is apprehended as a criminal with a silver cup in his sack, brought back certain of execution. And then standing before the man who is the Pharaoh of the land, turns out to be his brother and now the reconciliation has taken place and he is crying tears of total relief as he realizes only God could have done something like this. What a great, great scene of reconciliation.

v. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

Oh I wish we had a cassette recording of that conversation. Oh that would be so great. What do you think was the conversation that went on between them after things had kind of subsided and the tears were wiped away and they began to talk? Well I jotted down six things I think they talked about.

- 1. First I think they probably talked about the experiences of the past 22 years. I mean Joseph needed to be caught up on what went on there and they needed to know how Joseph ended up as second in command.**
- 2. And so secondly he traced all of the steps that led to the elevation to power and authority.**
- 3. I think the men probably talked with Joseph about the experiences of home and the children that had been born during the 22 years and all that.**
- 4. Then I am sure they spent some time talking as to why Joseph had tried them. “Why were you so mean to us and called us spies when we came down the first time? Why didn’t you just treat us nice?” And Joseph had to go through and make an explanation of all the steps. You know that is kind of like in that 1 Corinthians 13 passage that we started with we see through a glass darkly but then we see face to face the next phrase says we know in part but then we are going to know even as we are known. That is one of the beautiful things right now. If you are having a rough time and you do not understand what God is doing in your life do not worry about it. One of these days he is going to unroll the canvas and show you the reason why. You know you are going to be able to sit down and talk with him and when you see all the options you are going to say you made the best choice. You knew exactly what was best for me and if I had had the right I would**

- have chosen it too now that I can see the whole picture and the whole plan. And so they probably wanted to know about that.
5. Joseph convinced them I think that he had long since learned to trust God and to forgive them for what had happened 22 years ago.
 6. And then I am sure there was a whole lot of conversation about his father. He just wanted to know how dad was, how well he was.

v. 16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased.

v. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan,

v. 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.

Pharaoh agrees with what the Vice-President says.

Ephesians 3:20

Now unto Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

That's always the way God does it. When He has a hand in it you are going to recognize it.

Go get him and bring him back.

Why is Pharaoh so eager to have the whole family down here? He owes Pharaoh a lot for the last nine years of leadership because they are the only country that is capable of economic survival because of the policies that he has implemented over the last nine years and he is going to pay back that debt a little bit. The least he can do is provide for Joseph's family now. And so he wants to do it.

And then he thinks again. Look at verse 19. Look he is going to pull some power here. This is an executive action from the Oval Office here.

v. 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.'

You know the New American Standard and the King James translates that "wagons." I like that better than this. Carts just does not sound too cool. Wagons sounds better. Get the wagons. We are going to give you every provision to get them down here. Take some carts so you can bring your children and your wives.

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

You know that is exactly what the Lord expects of you and me and it is what is going to happen to you and me when we die.

You are going to leave this all behind because you are going to a better place a place that has been prepared for you by somebody who loves you unconditionally.

Forgetting those things which are behind, we press toward those things which are in front.

Pharaoh says leave it all there everything is going to be better that you are going to get here anyway.

And that is what the Lord has said to us in John 14. He has gone to prepare a place.

1 Corinthians 2:9 the Lord is going to make wonderful provision.

You see it is not so hard to die if you are living for what is over there. The hard part about dying is leaving for what you have been living for. And when you got to leave it behind it is pretty painful and it is a difficult separation. But if you have been living for that over there you do not lose it you are going to it and it gets pretty exciting.

v. 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.

Those are the extremes of the ups and downs of the day. Now they have everything they need. The 11 men are now ready to go back.

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And before they leave Joseph gives them carts and he brings all the provisions for the journey and everything else. And if it had been in existence in those times Joseph would have given them each a Ryder truck to facilitate the move. And since it is only wagons he cannot call on Desert Van Lines the smoother movers to get them down there he has got to make provisions some way to get them up there and back and so he makes this provision.

v. 22 To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.

Benjamin gets the special treatment again. They all get clothes just like Pharaoh gave Joseph his at 30 when he came into the palace. Now he is giving them all some real nice clothes and he gives five sets of clothes to Benjamin. Five times as much.

v. 23 And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey.

He knows he has to send something pretty big to impress his dad that it is really him. So he has got twenty donkeys in all here. Ten of them loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten of them loaded with grain and bread and other provisions.

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Then he sent his brothers away. And I love this 24th verse. I can't read it without laughing every time.

v. 24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!"

Why? The first thing they are going to do when they ride out of the city limits is "All right who is going to tell dad what happened to Joseph." You know I mean that is obvious and Reuben says, "I told you not to do something like that to him 22 years ago, I told you so." And the other 10 guys are going to jump on him like a duck on a June bug. I mean it is going to be a big fight. How are we going to get our stories straight to tell dad how in the world Joseph is still alive?

Philippians 2:14

Do nothing without grumbling or disputing, that you may prove yourselves blameless.

v. 25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

It probably took them about 10 or 12 days. It is a 250-mile trip. And so they have an awful lot of supplies this time with all the carts and livestock and everything that has been given and the 11 of them heading back up there.

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I guess they decided that the best thing to do was to hit dad with the direct approach and to just be honest and do not give any gory details. That will come later after dad survives the shock.

v. 26 They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is the ruler of all Egypt.” Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

Let's put ourselves in Jacob's shoes for just a second. What is primary in Jacob's thoughts as he sees this big caravan coming into town? There are only two things in his mind. I know there are 11 men coming and he will count to see that all 11 of them are there. But there are only 2 that he is really concerned about. Number 1 he will be relieved when he sees Benjamin. And number 2 he is looking for Simeon the hostage that has been down there and missing for all these months.

And as soon as he sees them he says how do you dial relief? One-one. Eleven. If they are all 11 there everything is fine. If not, we are in trouble. And so he is thinking 11. And they are saying, “Dad you are saying thank God for number 11 and we are telling number 12 is also alive. After all you always told us it was cheaper by the dozen. Number 12 is alive too.” And that is a totally foreign thought. He is stunned. He cannot believe that. He thinks the boys are telling him a story. After all he has had to live through all the mourning and loss of Joseph and for 22 years without him. He cannot even think a thought that he might still be alive and surviving in the land of Egypt.

v. 27 But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

Dad, we want to tell you a story. We are going to tell you a story about your son Joseph. And he still cannot believe it.

And they said dad come out side. Here is Air Force One sitting in the driveway. This is the Pharaoh of the land saying come to Egypt. There is 20 donkeys loaded out here with all the provisions for your journey. Joseph wants you there quick. And dad we do not need to pack just leave it all behind we are supposed to travel light.

And “the words that Joseph had spoken to them” and “when he saw the cart” he started to revive.

v. 28 And Israel said, “I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.”

“I am convinced!

It is enough. Yes, he is alive.

How good and gracious God is. Jacob realizes that and now it is time to celebrate. It is time to go and be with Joseph.

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Joseph waits to reveal himself to his brothers after their repentance and acknowledgement of guilt.

LESSON #2: When we see God in the control of people and circumstances, we are freed to forgive the instruments He uses to the accomplishment of His purpose.

LESSON #3: When we see God as the author of our circumstances, we then have wisdom to properly relate to them.

LESSON #4: Joseph manifests a compassion and concern for his family.

LESSON #5: Jacob is beginning to see the big picture. The whole dozen have been providentially kept.

LESSON #6: “I’m convinced” is the expression of a joyful heart having recognized the Lord’s doing.

LESSON #7: Joseph is deeply touched by the change he sees in his brothers.

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

STUDY NUMBER EIGHT - GENESIS 45:1-28

NOTES

v. 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.

v. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it.

v. 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.

v. 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!

v. 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.

v. 6 For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping.

v. 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.

v. 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.

v. 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.

v.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.

v.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.'

v.12 You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you.

v.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."

v.14 Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.

v.15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

v.16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased.

v.17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, **v.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.'

v.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.

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

v.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.

v.22 To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.

v.23 And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey.

v.24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!"

v.25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

v.26 They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

v.27 But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

v.28 And Israel said, "I'm convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Genesis 45:1-28 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Joseph do in verses 1-4?

3. How does Joseph feel about being sold into Egypt, according to verses 5-8?

4. What does Joseph command his brothers to do in verses 9-11?

5. What does Joseph ask his brothers to tell his father, according to verse 13?

6. What does Pharaoh do, according to verses 17-20?

7. What does Joseph tell his brothers in verse 24?

8. What is Jacob's response to the good news that he has received, according to verses 27 & 28?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

LESSON #1: Joseph waits to reveal himself to his brothers after their repentance and acknowledgment of guilt. Joseph waits to reveal himself to his brothers after their repentance and acknowledgment of guilt. You think about those three C's that we started out with: **CONVERSION, CONFESSION, COMMITMENT**. If you want a fresh revelation of the Lord it can fall into one of those three areas.

LESSON #2: When we see God in the control of people and circumstances, we are freed to forgive the instruments He uses. When we see God in the control of people and circumstances, we are freed to forgive the instruments He uses to the accomplishment of His purpose. Whatever God wants to do in circumstances and with people in our lives to accomplish His purpose, we are freed to forgive them.

LESSON #3: When we see God as the author of our circumstances, we then have wisdom to properly relate to them. When we see God as the author of our circumstances, we then have wisdom to properly relate to them.

LESSON #4: Joseph manifests a compassion and concern for his family. Joseph manifests a compassion and concern for his family.

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LESSON #5: Jacob is beginning to see the big picture because the whole dozen have been kept safe. Jacob is beginning to see the big picture because the whole dozen have been kept safe.

LESSON #6: “I am convinced” is the expression of a joyful heart having recognized the Lord’s doing. “I am convinced” is the expression of a joyful heart having recognized the Lord’s doing. Yep the Lord did it!

And then my last lesson.

LESSON #7: Joseph is deeply touched by the change that he sees in his brothers. Joseph is deeply touched by the change that he sees in his brothers.

As you examine your relationship tonight think of CONVERSION, CONFESSION, and COMMITMENT.

And then there are four things that stand out at this point in the study that has brought us to where we are I call them the four F’s.

There are four things that are vitally important in our relationship with God:

1. Be FAITHFUL

Lamentations 3:22,23

Be faithful

2. Be FRUITFUL

John 15:16

3. Be a FIGHTER

Ephesians 6:10,11

Stand strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

4. Be a FINISHER

Hebrews 12:1,2

I put down my pen and finished my writing of the lecture notes and I had to plug in Sandi Patti as she sang that great, new contemporary song “We Shall Behold Him.”

**The sky shall unfold, preparing His entrance,
The stars shall applaud Him with thunders of
praise.**

**The sweet light in His eyes shall enhance those
awaiting,
And we shall behold Him then face to face.
We shall behold Him, We shall behold Him,
Face to face in all His glory.
We shall behold Him, We shall behold Him,
Face to face our Savior and Lord.**