

Joseph

Genesis 45:1-15

Genesis 50:15-21

I. Intro

- A. David was a willing champion
- B. Gideon was an apprehensive champion
- C. Samson was a train wreck
- D. Jonah was a reminder to be different and obey God quickly and leave the results to God.
- E. Joseph:
 - 1. A reminder that God's plan may look really bad in the process
 - 2. But God's plan is never bad!
- F. Side note: anyone dabbling in the prosperity gospel...Read the entire story of Joseph!

II. Text

- A. Joseph's life recap:

Joseph's life:

Born into blessing

Dreams and visions...of arrogance

A favored son/A disliked brother

Sold into slavery

First rise to power in Egypt

Flees from Potiphar's wife

Prison

Interpreting dreams and visions

Placed into position of confidence

Gains power and influence

Years of plenty/preparation

Famine hits

Brothers come seeking help

God uses Joseph to rescue the entire region, and His people.

Joseph's family become powerful together

Egyptians sell their stuff to Pharaoh

Joseph put in charge of everything

- B. Genesis 45:5

- 1. Mentions being sold by his brothers
- 2. But there is a larger point
- 3. "For God sent me to preserve life"

- C. Genesis 45:7-8

- 1. God sent me to preserve life
- 2. So that we should have a remnant and live

- D. Genesis 50:20

- 1. The brothers were still bothered by their actions earlier in life
- 2. The knew Joseph had power of them, and thought this power would be exercised now that Jacob was dead.
- 3. Joseph explains the point: What you had intended for evil, God intended for good
- 4. That many people should be kept alive

III. Point

- A. The lows and highs

- 1. Some of the worst tragedies to ever fall upon a man, fell upon Joseph:
 - a) Sold as a slave
 - b) Betrayed by family
 - c) Falsely imprisoned (many years, but 2 years after dream interpreted for baker)

- d) Still a slave, but with authority.
 - 2. Joseph was pailful through the lows and highs
 - 3. Illus: MLB player: never too excited over a hot streak or a slump, its a long season. They just keep following their training.
 - 4. We should be more like Joseph, because he had more faith in God though the lows and highs
 - 5. Philippians 4:12-13 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
- B. The good and bad
- 1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
 - a) Theological answer: There are no good people.
 - b) Practical answer: you can't control everyones response to God
 - c) Lesson from Joseph: to save an entire region
 - 2. The good: Joseph was called by God, and God's presence was with him
 - 3. The bad: Joseph endured difficult things by the hand of God, so that people could be rescued.
- C. The Why:
- 1. I have dealt with this question from a lot of perspectives:
 - a) Someone dies too soon...family struggles with why
 - b) Someone hangs on too long...family asks why
 - c) Someone cheats/steals/lies/manipulates and seemingly are not punished... people ask why
 - 2. The never ending question: Why?
 - 3. With Joseph, we ask why, and God answers...through Joseph:
 - a) Born into blessing and given visions from God...vision and faith mark him.
 - b) Favored son/disiked brother...so to be sold into slavery
 - c) Sold into slavery...so the Ishmaelites would take him to Egypt
 - d) Sold to Egypt...so he could be in the place of influence
 - e) Falsely accused...so he could go to prison
 - f) Went to prison...so he could interpret the dreams of the inmates
 - g) Pharaoh has a dream...the cupbearer remembers Joseph (2 years later)
 - h) Pharaoh hears from Joseph...Joseph placed where he needs to be with the proper authority and the proper power.
 - (1) Joseph had served Potipher's house well
 - (2) Joseph had served in the jail well
 - (3) Joseph will now serve and eventually fulfill the plan God had for him.
 - i) Joseph puts the plan into place to store grain for the famine, and the entire region has to go through Joseph.
 - 4. Joseph was placed in a bad spot, but for the purpose of God!
 - a) Because Joseph was sold into slavery, imprisoned, and in Egypt:
 - (1) Grain was stored
 - (2) People were fed during the famine
 - (3) Joseph and his family became overseers of all the possessions of Egypt.
 - (4) A remnant lived, and almost 300 years later would be rescued from Egypt completely,
 - b) God's plan and purpose were clear and understood by Joseph.
 - 5. Hypotheticals:
 - a) There would have been no passover without the story of Joseph.
 - b) There would have been no lamb slain without the passover
 - c) There would have been no reminder of God's rescue without the obedience of His people called out to lead.

IV. Close

- A. The enemy means things for evil...God's means them for Good
- B. The cross was meant for evil...It is the best thing that has ever happened
- C. What man intended for evil, God intended for good...and rescue...and deliverance...and testimony.