

Joseph's Brothers Arrive: Grace
Genesis 42

I. Intro

- A. This would be the hardest and greatest test yet
- B. Joseph has risen to absolute power over the land of Egypt

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-5
 - 1. Jacob/Israel sends his sons, minus Benjamin
 - 2. Jacob is a little funny with his challenge, "Why are you looking at one another?"
- B. Verses 6-11
 - 1. Joseph remembers his dream as the brothers bow
 - 2. Joseph must have been fighting off all the emotions we would fight with, but did not strike the dead, as he could have.
- C. Verses 12-17
 - 1. The accusation buys him time
 - 2. The brothers that remain are placed into custody, prison was too good for them, but God had a plan to teach us about grace.
- D. Verses 18-25
 - 1. The turning point, Joseph wept
 - 2. The brothers accept their fate, knowing they deserve this
- E. Verses 26-28
 - 1. Greater grace than all our sins
 - 2. Money is returned in each of the sacks of grain
- F. Verses 29-34
 - 1. The brothers and Jacob did not understand what was going on
 - 2. Grace will do that to you!
- G. Verses 35-38
 - 1. They were afraid and acted in fear
 - 2. This is a natural reaction to the confrontation of grace from those who have never experienced it.

III. Points

- A. The Past
 - 1. The past is always going to be there, but it doesn't have power over you.
 - 2. Joseph, his brothers, and father were still dealing with the past in their own way:
 - a) Joseph emotional: anger, brokenness, pain???
 - b) Brothers: guilt, shame, confrontation
 - c) Jacob: loss, grief, pain
 - 3. They each wrestled with the past, and we wrestle as well.
 - 4. The Past is redeemable, and forgiveness is liberating:
 - a) The past would affect the brothers even to Genesis 50 when Joseph explains again the truth he is living out.
 - b) We do not want to be held in bondage to our past, but even more, Christ doesn't want us to live in bondage to our past!
 - 5. The past has a way of creeping up at just the wrong time:
 - a) This is not from God
 - b) He is not the one reminding you of your past
 - c) The enemy, the father of lies and the one who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy... he is the one who continues to remind us of our past.
 - 6. When the enemy tells you you are not good enough, remind him that you already know that, but Jesus handled it for you!
 - 7. [Psa 103:8-13 ESV] 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9 He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according

to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. 13 As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

B. The Grace

1. Grace is amazing
 - a) Grace is so contrary to our nature
 - b) We want grace for ourselves and justice for others
 - c) Other times we recognize we don't deserve grace and refuse to receive it.
2. [Eph 1:7-10 ESV] 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.
3. Grace is available for you:
 - a) As God reveals himself, that's grace
 - b) As God extends the arm of rescue, that's grace
 - c) As God welcomes you into relationship, that's grace
 - d) As God allows you to continue to work it out, that's grace
 - e) As God sees us continue to try to do things in our own power, only to be there waiting for us to turn to Him, that's grace!
4. Joseph did not have to endure the confrontation with his brothers, they deserved the harshest of punishment, yet he hatched a plan to see where their hearts truly were.
5. We see grace in this story, we relate to grace in this story, we live the grace of this story.

C. Christ Connection

1. The power to punish was there, but the desire to rescue was greater
2. We see this in Jesus when dealing with the woman caught in adultery in John 8
3. [Jhn 8:1-11 ESV] 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]
4. Joseph, like Jesus brought a reprieve from what was deserved, and provided a way forward.

IV. Close

- A. Lets be reminded of His grace as we take the Lord's supper
- B. It is a reminder of God's grace, and His eternal plan of redemption.