

Transformation: Victory in Surrender

Genesis 44

I. Intro

- A. Last week we were reminded of the destructive nature of sin and the sometimes painful process of change.
- B. Last week, Joel set the table, this week we see the table as set, next week we see the pinnacle of the story.
- C. This week and last we see the transformation process, next week we see the revelation of God's plan.
- D. Change does not always mean difficulty, but many times change comes with challenge.
- E. The challenge to become what God intends for us to be is a process of death and rebirth, where we die to our old self and are remade in the image of Christ.

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-29, a retelling of the story
- B. Verses 30-34:
 - 1. Judah is making the case and giving himself to judgment.
 - 2. He is following through with his promise and placing himself as accountable for Benjamin.
 - 3. This is a vastly different Judah from the early days of the story.
 - 4. Recap of Judah:
 - a) [Gen 37:25-27 ESV] 25 Then they sat down to eat. And looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing gum, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. 26 Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? 27 Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers listened to him.
 - b) Genesis 38: Judah's wickedness with Tamar
 - c) Genesis 43-44: Judah begins an outward transformation
 - d) [Gen 49:8-12 ESV] 8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. 9 Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.
 - e) Judah will be the father of the tribe of the messiah. The most unlikely, the least worthy, yet God works through our mess.
 - 5. Last week we saw (chapter 43): Gum, Balm, and Myrrh as a gift, In (chapter 37) we see gum balm and myrrh as a payment for trade.
 - a) Great value resins from trees
 - b) Aromatic and used in medicine (healing), currency, worship, and in death
 - c) It is interesting that this continues to come up in our story, but we recognize this to be a reminder of the significance of their need.
 - d) Myrrh specifically is thought to be worth more than gold in the ancient times, yet mostly used in preparing a deceased person for burial.
 - e) There is a death that we are witnessing in the text, and that is the death of self, and the life of faith.
 - f) Judah is mid jump in his leap of faith and transformation.

III. Point

- A. Challenging Times
 - 1. We are truly challenged with our sin nature

2. Christ is the only answer
 3. In our story, we see the pressure mounting on Judah, and Joseph is observing all the while.
 4. This transformation from antagonist to sacrifice is what we see in the work Christ does in us.
 - a) We find ourselves being the antagonist in our own story often enough
 - b) We find our limitations, yet seem to continually search for a deeper bottom to our own pit.
 - c) And then we see the hand of God reach out for us.
 - d) Peter walks on water...and then sinks...and then Jesus brings rescue.
 - e) [Mat 14:28-33 ESV] 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." 29 He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."
 5. There is only one answer to challenging times, reach out for the hand of God rather than reach for the shovel to dig deeper.
 6. Judah is in the transformational process, and is willingly laying down his life.
 7. My hope and prayer is that you continue to battle through the challenges and see victory through Christ.
- B. Complete Transformation
1. This is a work in progress until we are called home.
 2. Yet it is a completed act by Christ on the cross.
 3. Our spiritual reality and our physical limitations are clearly seen in scripture and in life.
 4. Cliff Palmer: I am becoming that which I have already been made.
 - a) I affirm this and think of this quote often
 - b) What I am in Christ is settled
 - c) What I am in the flesh is a work in process.
 5. Complete transformation is proven in the work of the Spirit and the struggle with the flesh.
 6. Completion in transformation is a growth trajectory that allows for God to show us our limitations, and His lack of limitations.
 7. What we are in Christ:
 - a) Regenerated
 - b) Renewed
 - c) Born Again
 - d) New Creation
 - e) More than Conquerors
 - f) Redeemed
 - g) Chosen
 8. Our old self is conquered, yet the tent of the flesh still rises up
 - a) This is where we battle
 - b) And, as long as there is a battle, there is work being done.
- C. Christ Connection
1. We see the process of refinement clearly
 2. We see the process of transformation clearly
 3. We see the reminder of our limitations clearly
 4. Judah takes on a role he was unwilling to take previously, and we see this as Christ works in us!
 - a) This troubled man becomes the father of the tribe of messiah

- b) The line of Jesus is marked by failures of man, but are not present in the person of Christ.
- 5. We see the challenge and the stain of sin, while we also see the victory in surrender
- 6. VICTORY in SURRENDER
 - a) Seemingly opposing sides, but the same in the spirit.
 - b) [Mat 16:24-27 ESV] 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

IV. Close

Prince of peace song