

Revelation
Genesis 45

I. Intro

- A. Last week we saw evidence of transformation, this week we see a great revelation
- B. As we are in the process of transformation, we will find glimpses along the way of God's plan and must process it properly
- C. The position of the heart is what matters for believers today.

II. Text

- A. Verses 1-3: Joseph's revelation
 - 1. They had to be shocked and relieved, until they realized this powerful man could bring judgment
 - 2. They were no longer trying to reason out how they were going to get out of a problem
 - 3. They stood guilty and were in no place of power to defend
- B. Verses 4-15: Joseph's deeper revelation
 - 1. The plan was explained
 - 2. But, God's plan defies logic, so I understand their apprehension
- C. Verses 16-20: Pharaoh's blessing
 - 1. Pharaoh just jumps in and is used to bless God's people
 - 2. Even the wicked can be used by God to accomplish His plan
- D. Verses 21-24: The brothers go to get Jacob
 - 1. This had to be an interesting conversation
 - 2. They probably walked slowly on the way home...
- E. Verses 25-28: Jacob's relief
 - 1. Stunned and relieved
 - 2. Joy restored, yet questions remained I'm sure

III. Points

- A. Revelation/Illumination
 - 1. The revelation is found in the text of scripture, Illumination comes from the Spirit bringing understanding to what God has already said in scripture.
 - 2. If you are claiming to have revelation that is outside of the text of scripture, it is not revelation.
 - 3. Joseph reveals the truth to his brothers that had been hidden, and their response is uncertain:
 - a) Light shined on that which had been kept in darkness, and a positive confrontation occurred.
 - b) Did they embrace him because of joy and gratefulness?
 - c) Did they approach him with caution because of their own guilt?
 - d) Did they get past it because Joseph explained truth of God's plan for rescue?
 - 4. It does not appear that they fully understood or got past their obvious guilt because they still had questions after the death of Jacob.
 - 5. This is where believers struggle today:
 - a) Forgiveness has been revealed, but has it been received?
 - b) When forgiveness is offered, and repentance and confession are engaged
 - c) We then need to take the next step and receive
- B. Perspective
 - 1. Verse 5: Forgiveness is extended, but is it received?
 - 2. When we receive forgiveness it produces a response:
 - a) The response is a heart matter
 - b) The response is acknowledgment and recognition
 - c) The response is vital
 - 3. Where does repentance fit in?

- a) Repentance: to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life
 - b) Turn and dedicate
 - c) This is the perspective of a heart that has received forgiveness
 - d) This is where we find joy in our salvation again
- 4. Scripture:
 - a) [Mat 4:17 ESV] 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - b) [Mar 1:14-15 ESV] 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."
 - c) [Luk 15:4-7 ESV] 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
 - d) [Act 3:19-20 ESV] 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,
 - e) [Rom 2:1-5 ESV] 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man--you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself--that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
 - f) [2Pe 3:9 ESV] 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
 - g) [Rev 2:5 ESV] 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
- 5. Joseph's brothers lacked something in this transformation:
 - a) They did not have joy after forgiveness
 - b) They did not have peace after forgiveness
 - c) They missed the final step in having a right perspective before God!
 - d) We have no record of repentance, and we see they struggled with accepting forgiveness. This is vital to our peace with God!
- C. Christ Connection
 - 1. This story shows the power of Christ in forgiveness and restoration
 - 2. There is hope for us by the power of the Spirit that is at work in us and through us.
 - 3. We see:
 - a) They were guilty and that truth was never minimized
 - b) They acted in sin, and that was clear
 - c) But they were forgiven based not on merit, but contrition of the heart.
 - d) But they never walked in victory because they stayed there.
 - 4. They could have received the victory along with the message of forgiveness, it is offered to us by the power and plan of God!

5. Joseph is used by God to preserve life and bring rescue to the world:
 - a) Rescuing life of the entire known world
 - b) Rescuing life of Judah, who was the line of messiah
 - c) Rescuing us, by ensuring messiah would live and die and live again!

IV. Close