



WEEK 9

TRIUMPH TO THE END

Genesis 50

They stood on Samaritan soil. Soil that usually went untouched by Jewish feet because the Samaritans were hated by the Jews and regarded as impure. But to Jesus, the Samaritans had the same needs as everyone else; they needed Him and the salvation that only He could give. While on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus brought His disciples through Samaria. Upon arriving, his disciples went on into the city to find lunch, but Jesus stayed behind at the city's well for a divine encounter with a woman living in sin. He knew she would come to the well that day. In the midst of her sin, loneliness, and desperation, He extended grace to her. She received what she had never been given before; freedom from her past and forgiveness moving forward. As this woman runs to the city to tell everyone about this man Jesus, the disciples meet up with Jesus and offer him lunch. Knowing He must have been hungry and tired, His disciples urged Jesus to eat. He refused and said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

Jesus had one purpose given to Him by the will of His Father, God Almighty. He came to earth to save sinners. A purpose which would conclude in His horrific and painful death at the hands of the very people He came to save. God's purpose was always Jesus' focus despite the cost, the betrayal, the rejection, or the personal pain. The soil of Samaria wouldn't stop Him, the rejection from the Jews wouldn't stop Him, and even the cross wouldn't stop Him. 1 Peter 2:24 says, "[He] who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins might live for righteousness – by whose stripes we are healed." Every day lived here on earth, Jesus lived to finish God's will for you and me (Stacy). As His body hung nailed to the cross and He knew all things were accomplished for the fulfillment of God's plan, He ushered up the triumphant words we all need to hear, "It is finished." (John 19:30) With that, Jesus took His last breath.

As we come to the last lesson of the study of Joseph, like Jesus, we see Joseph triumphing over evil to the end. Throughout the study, we've seen Joseph abandoned, rejected, accused, and imprisoned; events resulting from actions of the brothers he loved so dearly.



As we'll see today, the past sin of the brothers resurfaces in their hearts following the death of their father, Jacob. Fearing Joseph will now retaliate against them, they beg him for forgiveness. Joseph had already forgiven them years prior. Yet, Joseph will extend complete forgiveness again, receiving them with love and tenderness. They were forgiven and set free from the penalty of that sin. Joseph communicated God's grace. They needed to receive the grace given and walk in that freedom. And Joseph, triumphing in God, said, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

(Genesis 50:20) Like Jesus does for us, Joseph bore the griefs of his brothers and carried their sorrow away, all the while he himself suffered affliction (Isaiah 53:4). Joseph's life speaks to a life of deep faith in God; faith that triumphs when circumstances speak of defeat. As God used Jesus' life to save those hopelessly lost in sin, so too, God used Joseph to save his father, his brothers, and a nation. From the evil intended, God raised Joseph up in power, protected his witness, gave him position and made him prosper. It is what He desires to do with us, too.

Joseph knew God was greater than any evil seen or circumstance experienced. Joseph knew God was in control of all things. His very words attest to his faith in God. God knows what He's doing even when our circumstances might declare otherwise. Joseph speaks with confident assurance as he responds to his brothers saying, "Am I in God's place?" (Genesis 50:19). For truly it is God, and God alone, who forgives, saves, and redeems.

As Joseph's life comes to an end on this side of heaven, he doesn't speak of his personal victory or triumph, but speaks of God's grace and faithfulness. He triumphs in God; who He is, His grace, His faithful promises, His eternal perspective, His greater good. It is those words he leaves with his brothers. "God will visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, Isaac and to Jacob." (Genesis 50:24) God is with you. In that, and that alone, we can triumph to the end!



RECEIVING God's Word

Open in Prayer

Read Genesis 50: 1-26



EXPERIENCING God's Word

1. Read Genesis 50:1-3. Describe Joseph's emotional response to Jacob's death and the instructions on how to prepare Jacob's body.

"Pharaoh commanded the Egyptians to observe an official mourning period for Jacob. After all, Jacob was the father of the second ruler in the land. This kind of recognition was usually reserved for important people like Pharaoh himself or members of his family. The forty days of the embalming period and the seventy days of the official mourning were probably concurrent." (W. Weirsbe, *Be Authentic*, p. 179)

2. In Genesis 50:4-9 Joseph goes to Pharaoh asking for permission to take the 300 mile journey to Canaan to bury his father. Pharaoh gives his permission. Describe the processional and include who went and who did not.
3. Read Genesis 50:10-11. Threshing floors were typically located outside the city in a large elevated place where many people could gather at one time. This is where Joseph chose to mourn Jacob publicly. What affect did this observance have upon the Canaanites?





6. Read Genesis 50:19-21. Verse 20 is one of the most quoted verses from this chapter. What do you learn from this verse about how God turns evil into good?
 - a. Joseph demonstrates many attributes of the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). Which one stands out the most to you from verses 19-21? Explain why you chose it.
7. Read Genesis 50:22-23 and Proverbs 17:6. How do you see this Proverb being fulfilled at the end of Joseph's life?
8. In Genesis 50:24 Joseph gives his brothers an encouragement similar to his father's. How does Joseph encourage his brothers?
9. Read Hebrews 11:22 and then read Genesis 50:25. What does this say about the depth of Joseph's trust in God and His promises?



10. Read Genesis 50:25-26 and then answer the following questions:
- From Genesis 50:25-26 what was Joseph's request? Read Exodus 13:19 and Joshua 24:32. Who fulfilled Joseph's request?
 - According to Genesis 50:26, where does Joseph's body remain until his request is fulfilled?
11. Throughout the study we have looked at how Joseph is a type of Christ. His life was a foreshadowing of the Messiah. From what you learned, list all the ways you see Joseph resembling Christ throughout his life.



TIME STAMP

Before the digital age, when important paper documents were received, a clerk would use an ink stamp to mark the time and date on them to stand as an official record of an event. It has been said that life events can also be like "time stamps" upon our hearts. Incidents that happen in life, both good and bad, leave an indelible stamp upon us and are not easily forgotten.

Joseph has many "time stamp" moments in his life. As you look back on this week's lesson, what events would you say are "time stamp" moments for Joseph?



ACTING on God's Word

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20

"Satan weaves; God reweaves" – Max Lucado

Perhaps one of the most well-known quotes about Joseph's life is found in Genesis 50:20. I (Brenda) believe it is so frequently quoted because it is relatable and reassuring. Evil things happen around us daily. We are witnesses to heartache, destruction, trouble and disasters, and they are disturbing. When evil seems to have the upper hand, both believers and non-believers can question God saying, "Why, God?" I know in my own life, there have been times I have asked this question of the Lord because I cannot see how my circumstances could possibly be "good." But, just because I cannot see the good to come does not mean it won't come, or that I will fully understand the "good" He is orchestrating. We must accept that there are things God, in His wisdom and mercy, allows us to see and things He chooses not to reveal to us. I heard an analogy which put a unique perspective on difficult events. There is an obvious size difference between a Saint Bernard and a no-see-um (sand flies). If you were camping and both a Saint Bernard and a sand fly were in your tent, you would certainly see one and likely not the other but, regardless, both were present. We can ask God to show us the "good" in difficult events but, in the end, we must trust He is at work, regardless if we ever witness the good He alone weaves into evil circumstances.

1. Have you ever watched the news only to learn about evil events and questioned, "Why, God?" If so, give an example.





- a. What part of your walk has God been working on since the start of this study? What progress have you seen Him make as you've submitted to His authority over you in this area?
 - b. How would you summarize the study of "Joseph's life" in one or two sentences?
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6. Throughout the study, you have noted circumstances in Joseph's life that probably were time stamped on his heart. These were difficult and often painful situations that changed the trajectory of his life. He probably remembered the details and the time of each event for many years. Time stamps in life can also come from joyous occasions. Think over your life and list the "time stamps" that you have mentally recorded, whether from a painful or joyous event/circumstance. How have you seen God use those "time stamps" in your life? Look over your list and detail God's sovereignty and faithfulness in using those events in your life for His glory.



DELIGHTING in God's Word

From today's verses, how has the Lord prompted you to pray?

Write a verse from the chapter that God has spoken to your heart.

Close in Prayer