

Joseph 09 - A Great Deliverance - Genesis 44:1-45:7

Call to Worship: Romans 11:33-36

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Sermon: A Great Deliverance - Genesis 44:1-45:7

Benediction: Ephesians 1:7

INTRODUCTION

Last time we were studying in Genesis chapter 42.

We saw a couple of wonderful things for the disciples of Jesus Christ.

- there was grain in Egypt! Everything needed for eternal life is in Jesus Christ.

- the men received grain, and their money returned in the sacks.

Eternal life is not bought with money, or with good works, but is by the free grace of God in Jesus Christ.

We also saw also how Jesus Christ deals with sinners who try religion.

- you want to have some transaction with Him, where you get eternal life

- He will not let you buy it, but instead insists you are His enemy, and are trying to deceive Him

- He does not accept your description of yourself as an honest man, a righteous person

- But He tells you of God's grace, the filling of your sacks with grain, but not because you earned it---he puts your money back in your sack

- But you don't understand that. You are left wondering what is going on. You don't quite get this, and maybe it even seems foolish to you, because it is something spiritually discerned, and you are spiritually dead, spiritually blind

So we go on from that point today. The next chapter, Genesis 43, is a wonderful treat to read, but is not where today's sermon lies. So we're going to read through Genesis 43, then as we turn the page to Genesis 44, I'll start making observations on the text with you.

Read Genesis 43

BODY with TEXT

Read Genesis 44:1-4

Genesis 44:4 When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, "Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you repaid evil for good?"

Think what an appropriate question that is for these men!

- their father Jacob has done them only good
- but they repaid the good he had done for them with evil
- they can rightly be asked, "Why have you repaid evil for good?"

Think what an appropriate question that is for all sinners!

- for Adam
- for every person
- for you yourself

Read Genesis 44:5-7

Genesis 44:7 And they said to him, "Why does my lord say these words? Far be it from us that your servants should do such a thing.

These brothers have previously said of themselves, "We are honest men."

Now they say that to repay evil for good is something far from them. But are they really honest men?

- they have maintained a horrible deception of their father for years

Is it really far from them to do such a thing?

- yes, it's true, that they did not steal the silver cup
- but it is not far from them to do such a thing---the guilt of it is right there with them!

Read Genesis 44:8

Genesis 44:8 Look, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money which we found in the mouth of our sacks. How then could we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?

They have not sinned as to something. They offer this as proof they had not sinned in another thing. Does that actually prove it?

We can offer an example of an instance in which we have done good instead of evil. We would like that to be taken as proof that we could not have done evil in another instance. We offer our present good behavior as proof that our behavior always has been good. Does the one truly prove the other?

Read Genesis 44:9

Genesis 44:9 With whomever of your servants it is found, let him die, and we also will be my lord's slaves."

The brothers here pronounce the death penalty on such a thief, little knowing they are pronouncing the penalty on themselves!

Remember how David did the same centuries later?

2 Samuel 12:5 So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die!

Read Genesis 44:10-16

Genesis 44:13-16 Then they tore their clothes, and each man loaded his donkey and returned to the city. (14) So Judah and his brothers came to Joseph's house, and he was still there; and they fell before him on the ground. (15) And Joseph said to them, "What deed is this you have done? Did you not know that such a man as I can certainly practice divination?" (16) Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord? What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of your servants; here we are, my lord's slaves, both we and he also with whom the cup was found."

See the display here of true repentance

- they tore their clothes
- they fell before Joseph on the ground
- they did not attempt to clear themselves
- they acknowledged that God had found out their iniquity
- they named themselves Joseph's servants

Remember the former state of these brothers?

- tearing Joseph's clothes
- mocking the idea of falling down before him
- deceiving to hide their guilt
- not caring that God would know their iniquity
- making Joseph a servant

God kept working on these men through Joseph until they were in this state:

- clothes torn
- fallen down at the feet of Joseph
- no longer denying their guilt
- acknowledging their iniquity before God
- calling themselves the servants of Joseph

Read Genesis 44:17-34

Genesis 44:33-34 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. (34) For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"

Has there been a change in these men? Oh, yes, and what a glorious change! This is the change that does not come from mere human resolve. This is nothing else but the change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit

-before they were willing that their brother be made a slave, not caring for the grief it would cause their father
-now they are willing to make themselves slaves instead of their brother, so grief would not come to their father

APPLICATION

Let all here cease from trying to deceive, trying to convince yourself, other people, and Jesus Himself, that you are honest men, that you are righteous people, that you have done nothing wrong deserving of punishment from God.

Did you think a man like Jesus doesn't know what you've done?

Did you think that because you've done some things that are good, that proves you haven't done anything bad?

Did you think that because you are innocent of certain instances of sin, that proves you are innocent of all sin?

Cease from all your attempts to protest your righteousness. Stop thinking that sin is far from you. It is right there with you, right between you and Jesus, against whom you have sinned.

Admit that God has found out your iniquity. Confess yourself a sinner against both God and man. The sin you used to enjoy, now hate because it is sin against the beloved Son, our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Throw yourself down at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, as His servant forever. Plead with Him that the wrath of God not burn against you.

Produce fruit in keeping with your repentance. Care now that you do no wrong, hating the very thought of harming your brother or grieving your father. Prefer rather to suffer yourself than by your sin to bring suffering on someone else.

What do such humbled, penitent sinners find in Jesus Christ? What will he say to you, when you bow before Him in faith, seeking forgiveness from God in Him?

Read Genesis 45:1-7

Genesis 45:4

-Come near to me! Yes, you, the one who formerly made yourself His enemy. Come near!

-I am Jesus your brother! You made yourself my enemy, but by God's grace He has made you my brother.

Genesis 45:5

-There is now no need to be grieved or angry with yourself for you former sins.

-God has sent me to save your life.

Genesis 45:6

-This is only the second year of a seven-year famine. The judgment of God is not yet fully come. The pains of this life are nothing compared with the

wrath of God that will be poured out on sinners in the final day of judgment.

Genesis 45:7

-But God sent me before you to save you by a great deliverance. Have no fear for your soul, because those who have come to Christ will be saved not just from two years of God's judgment, but saved perfectly through all with a great deliverance in the final day.

CONCLUSION

God sent His Beloved Son Jesus before us

- His clothes were torn from Him
- He was accused of what He had not done
- He took our guilt, which deserved death
- He suffered for our sake, and died for our sins
- He was raised to life the third day
- He was exalted to the right hand of God the Father in heaven, and given the rule over everything.

God sent Him to do all this to save us from judgment by a great deliverance.

JRY:

The brothers are accused of taking away from Joseph something of great personal value, when doing so was a very base crime, and sure to be detected, an example of rank ingratitude and betrayal of trust. They had not, in this instance, done this thing, but again Joseph has put his finger right on their true character. That is the very thing these brothers had done to their father, Jacob, when they stole Joseph away from him years before.

But now they cannot stand the thought of such a thing being done to their dear father and their younger brother. "I would rather suffer than have them suffer."

Calvin:

they say that their iniquity has been found out by God; because, although they had some secret suspicion of fraud, thinking that this had been a contrivance for the purpose of bringing an unjust charge against them, they choose rather to trace the cause of their punishment to the secret judgment of God.

although the truth of the fact is not apparent, yet they are punished by God as guilty persons. They do not, however, speak hypocritically; but being troubled and astonished in their perplexed affairs, there is nothing left for them but the consciousness that this punishment is inflicted by the secret judgment of God. And I wish that they who, when smitten by the rod of God, do not immediately perceive the cause, would adopt the same course; and when they find that men are unjustly incensed against them, would recall to mind the secret judgments of God, by which it becomes us to be humbled.

his design was nothing else than to pierce their hearts more deeply

Henry:

Joseph's [sic; actually Judah's] protestation (Gen_43:3) may be alluded to to show upon what terms we must draw nigh to God; unless we bring Christ along with us in the arms of our faith, we cannot see the face of God with comfort.

Judah's conscience had lately smitten him for what he had done a great while ago against Joseph (Gen_42:21); and, as an evidence of the truth of his repentance, he is ready to undertake, as far as a man could do it, for Benjamin's security. He will not only not wrong him, but will do all he can to protect him. This is restitution, as far as the case will admit; when he knew not how he could restore Joseph, he would make some amends for the irreparable injury he had done him by doubling his care concerning Benjamin.

If we should ever know what a famine of the word means, let us not think it much to travel as far for spiritual food as they did for corporal food.

thus he would testify his particular respect for him, that he might try whether his brethren would envy Benjamin his larger messes, as formerly they had envied himself his finer coat.

JRY:

The brothers get to see here how Joseph treats those who are indeed honest men.

- payment is refused
- they are brought into the house
- they are given water for washing their feet
- they are provided feed for their donkeys
- they are spoken to kindly
- the grace of God is pronounced upon them
- they are fed
- they drink are are merry
- they are with him!

Sinner, do you hear this gospel, this good news?

If you, in need of grain, come to Joseph honestly, not