

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Gospel According to Joseph

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Genesis 42, 45

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) All of the Bible is about Jesus.
- b) God wants us to be saved so much that He tucked away, by illustration, salvation stories in the Old Testament.
  - i) They portend, prophesy, and portray the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - ii) One is in the life of a young man named Joseph.
    - (1) He was a type, a picture of the Lord Jesus.
    - (2) In his life, we find out how God is reaching out to us in Christ.
  - iii) Jesus said that the Old Testament testified of Him.
    - (1) John 5:39
- c) Joseph was the beloved son of his father Jacob.
  - i) Genesis 37-45
  - ii) He had a coat of many colors that spoke of the variegated splendor of his character.
    - (1) It was literally a coat that royalty would wear.
  - iii) His brothers conspired against him.
    - (1) They hated him.
    - (2) They put him in a pit and sold him as a slave.
    - (3) They told their father, Jacob, that Joseph had been killed.
      - (a) As far as Jacob knew, his son was dead.
  - iv) But Joseph had been sold to an Ishmaelite caravan going to Egypt.
  - v) Eventually, Joseph ended up on the slave market.
    - (1) He became a slave of a man named Potiphar.
  - vi) Joseph was falsely accused of rape and thrown into prison.
    - (1) He was taken out of prison by the providence of God.
  - vii) By a miracle of God's providence, he ascended to the second place in all of Egypt.
    - (1) He was second to Pharaoh.
    - (2) He was, what we would call today, the Prime Minister of Egypt.
  - viii) There was a famine in the land of Canaan where Joseph's brothers and father lived.
    - (1) Because of Joseph's foresight, there was much grain and provision in Egypt.
    - (2) Joseph's brothers had to go to Egypt to find grain.
      - (a) As far as they knew, their brother was dead.
      - (b) They had no way of knowing that he had become the Prime Minister of Egypt.
    - (3) They had to appear before Joseph in order to get grain.
      - (a) Joseph knew that they were his brothers, but they did not know who Joseph was.
      - (b) Joseph wanted to reach out to them, forgive them, and restore them.
- d) Joseph pictures the Lord Jesus reaching out to us to receive us to Himself, though we were the ones who crucified Him.

- i) We're the ones who turned our backs on Him.
    - ii) In love, the Lord Jesus reaches out to us.
  - e) In the story of Joseph, we see how the Lord Jesus Christ has revealed Himself to us and what He has done for each of us.
    - i) The Bible could not have been written by happenstance.
      - (1) It is a great confirmation of inspiration and a great opportunity for us to understand and love the Lord Jesus more.
  - f) Joseph, as he pictures the Lord Jesus:
    - i) Was despised and rejected.
    - ii) Was exalted and given a place of rule and authority.
    - iii) Forgave and restored his brothers.
  - g) There are four steps in Joseph's life:
    - i) The beloved son.
    - ii) The rejected servant.
    - iii) The exalted sovereign.
    - iv) The seeking savior.
      - (1) In today's message, we will see Joseph as the seeking savior.
  - h) Genesis 45:1-3
- 2) CONFRONTATION WITH CHRIST (GENESIS 42:7, 23-24)
  - a) In our salvation experience, first there came a confrontation with Christ.
  - b) Joseph confronted his brothers.
    - i) Genesis 42:7
      - (1) Joseph disguised himself.
      - (2) Why did Joseph speak roughly to his brothers and seemingly cause them trouble?
        - (a) It is trouble and heartache that bring us to the Lord Jesus Christ.
          - (i) When we have trouble, it does not mean that He does not love us.
          - (ii) It may, indeed, mean that He does love us and wants to do something in our hearts.
    - ii) Genesis 42:23
      - (1) Joseph knew what they were saying, but they did not understand what Joseph was saying.
      - (2) They did not understand that Joseph understood their language.
    - iii) Genesis 42:24
      - (1) Joseph spoke to his brothers roughly, strongly, and condemningly.
      - (2) His brothers did not know who he was.
        - (a) All they knew was that he was like a dictator upon a throne.
      - (3) They were afraid of Joseph.
    - iv) Joseph understood them.
      - (1) He knew all about them.
        - (a) Just as the Lord Jesus knows all about us.

- v) While it seems like Joseph was causing his brothers pain, he was so full of emotion that he had to turn aside and weep.
    - (1) These were the brothers who sold him into slavery.
    - (2) They were the ones who had hated, despised, and rejected him.
    - (3) Yet, Joseph's heart was so full of compassion that he wept privately over them.
  - c) Sometimes it may seem to us that God is hard.
    - i) But little do we realize how much pain He is suffering when He brings us pain in order to bring us to Him.
    - ii) Joseph's brothers had a need, and that need was engineered that they might come.
      - (1) Our needs and hungers are God's way of bringing us to Himself.
  - d) All of us have been confronted by the Lord.
    - i) The Lord speaks to us in pain.
    - ii) He speaks to us in hunger.
    - iii) Sometimes trouble and heartache come to us.
      - (1) But they are gifts of our sovereign God.
      - (2) While they may break our heart, they have already broken His heart.
- 3) CONVICTION BY CHRIST (GENESIS 45:3)
- a) Genesis 45:3
    - i) Their lives were in Joseph's hands.
      - (1) Joseph could have put them to death if he had wanted to.
    - ii) In this passage of Scripture, the word "troubled" may be translated, "They were terrified."
      - (1) They were terror stricken.
      - (2) They were under conviction.
    - iii) Joseph was now armed with absolute power, and they were worthy of judgment.
  - b) No one has ever been saved until they have seen, first of all, the sovereignty of God and that they deserve judgment.
    - i) There is no conversion without conviction.
    - ii) One of the things that is wrong in many churches today is that people come forward to join churches like they are doing God a favor.
      - (1) They have never been terrified by their sin, nor do they realize that their sin nailed Jesus to the cross.
    - iii) When are little children ready to be saved?
      - (1) It is not good to berate children and tell them that they are unworthy sinners.
      - (2) The time will come when, by Bible teaching, they will come under conviction of sin.
      - (3) Do not simply ask a little child if they believe in Jesus.
        - (a) A little child will believe whatever we tell them to believe.

- (4) Has that child seen himself as a sinner in the sight of a righteous and a holy God?
    - (a) If so, then he or she is ready for a Savior.
  - c) Jesus brings us to Him.
    - i) Sometimes by our hungers.
    - ii) Sometimes by our needs.
    - iii) Sometimes by dealing roughly with us.
    - iv) But whatever the means, He brings us to Himself.
  - d) He reveals Himself to us.
    - i) When we realize He is the one we have sinned against, we should cry out, "God, be merciful to me."
- 4) CONVERSION TO CHRIST (GENESIS 45:4-8)
- a) Genesis 45:4-8
    - i) He gave them an invitation.
      - (1) Whosoever will may come.
    - ii) They were terrified, but Joseph reached out in love and said, "Come unto me."
    - iii) He did not minimize their sin.
      - (1) He maximized the grace of God.
    - iv) He told them that it was God's plan.
      - (1) Even though they were guilty, God sent him there.
  - b) Even though we are guilty of nailing Jesus to the cross, God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
    - i) John 3:16
    - ii) The Lord Jesus was crucified in the heart and mind of God.
    - iii) When man did his worst, God was doing His best.
      - (1) Calvary was the world's greatest tragedy, so far as man's dealing with God.
      - (2) At the same time, Calvary was the greatest triumph, so far as God's dealing with man.
    - iv) We are guilty, but God overruled.
  - c) Joseph's brothers were now under new management.
    - i) Joseph told his brothers about the future.
    - ii) Genesis 45:6-7
      - (1) There would be more famine.
        - (a) Joseph was the only one who knew the future.
          - (i) His brothers did not know the future.
      - (2) He also told them that he would make a deliverance and a provision for them.
        - (a) He is able to do all of this because he has been exalted.
          - (i) Genesis 45:8
  - d) Jesus is exalted at the right hand of the Father.

- i) The Lord Jesus invites us to come to Him and is able to make a provision for us and take care of us because He is now exalted and risen.
    - (1) He is not a little baby in the arms of Mary.
    - (2) He is not a man nailed to the cross.
  - ii) He is the risen, ascended Lord.
- 5) COMMISSION FROM CHRIST (GENESIS 45:9-13)
- a) Genesis 45:9-13
    - i) Genesis 45:4 says, "Come."
    - ii) Genesis 45:9 says, "Go."
      - (1) All of the Bible can be summed up in these two words:
        - (a) "Come" to Jesus.
        - (b) "Go" into all the world.
          - (i) Once we are saved, we're to go tell others.
          - (ii) Matthew 28:19-20
    - b) Joseph made missionaries of his brothers.
      - i) They were to, first of all, come to him.
        - (1) He had made provision for them.
      - ii) Then, they were to go to his father, get the rest of his family, and bring them.
        - (1) They were to give their family this message:
          - (a) He was once rejected.
          - (b) They thought he was dead, but he is alive.
          - (c) He has ascended on high.
          - (d) He has been given a name of majesty.
          - (e) He has forgiven their sin.
          - (f) He wants them to come, live with him, and share in his glory.
            - (i) This is what the brothers were to go back and tell.
            - (ii) And this is the commission from Christ.
              - 1. Matthew 28:18-20
- 6) COMMUNION IN CHRIST (GENESIS 45:14-15)
- a) Genesis 45:14-15
    - i) They were hugging each other.
    - ii) They were crying tears of joy.
    - iii) Joseph had more than pardoned them.
      - (1) He was loving them.
      - (2) He was having fellowship with them.
      - (3) He was talking with them.
  - b) The great privilege of being saved is not merely having our sins forgiven or having provision or a future or a missionary charge.
    - i) It is to have fellowship with the Lord Jesus.
      - (1) Jesus is real to us.

- (2) The great privilege we have is the same as Joseph had and his brothers had with Joseph, and that was to talk with one another.
    - (a) God wants us to talk with Him.
  - c) We meet a need in the heart of God.
    - i) God is a God of love.
      - (1) What good is love if there is not someone to love and someone to love back?
        - (a) That is why God created us.
    - ii) God did not make us to serve Him.
      - (1) If He wanted servants, then He could get angels.
    - iii) God made us as individuals whom He could love, talk with, and share with.
  - d) Sometimes we get the idea that God does not want to hear about the small things in our lives.
    - i) But He does because He loves us.
    - ii) Small things are not a bother to Him.
      - (1) Is anything really big to God?
        - (a) He is God.
        - (b) There is nothing really big to Him.
- 7) COMPLETION IN CHRIST (GENESIS 45:16-23)
- a) Genesis 45:16-23
    - i) God does not have favorites.
      - (1) But He does have intimates.
    - ii) This passage speaks to all that we have in the Lord Jesus.
  - b) When Joseph introduced his brothers to Pharaoh, he made no mention of their guilt.
    - i) It was forgotten; it was blotted out.
    - ii) It was buried in the grave of his forgetfulness.
    - iii) He took his brothers and presented them to the king as his brothers.
      - (1) This is what Jesus does with us.
        - (a) He presents us to God the Father as His brothers and sisters.
  - c) When we are presented to God the Father as the brothers and sisters of Heaven's Prime Minister, then all of the resources of Heaven are committed to us for Jesus' sake.
  - d) Genesis 45:20
    - i) Pharaoh had a job for the brothers to do.
    - ii) As brothers of the Prime Minister of Egypt, anything they needed was theirs.
    - iii) They were to go and do their job and not worry about their stuff.
      - (1) We should live as though we don't own anything, that it all belongs to God.
      - (2) They now belonged to Pharaoh, and all the wealth of Egypt now belonged to them.

- (3) Stuff is just premature junk.
  - (4) All the resources of Heaven are ours.
    - (a) That is our completion in Christ.
      - (i) Colossians 2:10
      - (ii) Philippians 4:19
  - e) We are complete in the Lord Jesus.
- 8) CONTINUATION FOR CHRIST (GENESIS 45:24-28)
- a) Genesis 45:24-26
    - i) Joseph's brothers came back to say that Joseph was alive.
      - (1) Joseph had ascended to the throne, made ample provision for them, and wanted them to come live with him.
      - (2) This is what we preach about the Lord Jesus Christ:
        - (a) He is not dead.
        - (b) He is alive.
        - (c) He is risen.
        - (d) He has ascended to the throne.
        - (e) He has made provision for us.
        - (f) He wants us to come and live with Him.
          - (i) This is the Gospel message.
    - ii) Jacob did not believe it.
  - b) Genesis 45:27-28
    - i) It was not the brothers' words that convinced Jacob; it was Joseph's wagons.
  - c) What will convince this world?
    - i) When they see the riches of Jesus in our lives.
  - d) We should want to live a lifestyle that we cannot explain apart from Jesus.
    - i) This is not referring to what we have financially, but what we have in the Lord Jesus.
      - (1) The wagonloads of God's grace will convince this world.
    - ii) The greatest argument for Jesus and the greatest argument against Jesus is the life of a Christian.
      - (1) It just depends on how we are living.
- 9) CONCLUSION
- a) How are you going to explain all of the wagonloads of grace?
  - b) How are you going to explain what God is doing and continues to do?
  - c) Genesis 45:24
    - i) The devil would love for us to fall out by the way.
      - (1) To quit serving Jesus or to fall out with one another.
  - d) God has called us together as a family.
    - i) We are brothers and sisters commissioned by Jesus, our heavenly Joseph.
    - ii) He has given to the church everything that we need to get the job done.
    - iii) He has given us wagonloads of grace.



- iv) He is telling us to not fall out by the way.
  - (1) Don't fall out of the race.
  - (2) Don't fall out with one another.
  - (3) Just keep on going, telling this world about Jesus.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16