**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | The Gospel According to Joseph |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Genesis 45 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2253 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There are none so bad they cannot be saved and none so good they need not be saved.
   2. God wants us saved so much that He has given us many wonderful illustrations in the Bible.
      1. One of those illustrations is the life of Joseph.
         1. The life of Joseph is a picture, a prophecy and a portrait of the Lord Jesus.
         2. This is a confirmation and an affirmation of the inspiration of the Word of God when we see these word pictures and portraits tucked away in the Old Testament.
   3. Joseph’s life could be put into four categories:
      1. Joseph the beloved son
         1. He was his father’s beloved son, just as Jesus is.
      2. Joseph the suffering servant
         1. He was sent to his brethren, scorned and shamed by his brethren, and suffered at the hands of his brethren.
      3. Joseph the exalted sovereign
         1. Joseph is taken from the pit and the prison and is exalted.
            1. Genesis 41:38-44
      4. Joseph the seeking savior
         1. Joseph sought, brought, forgave, restored and fellowshipped with his brothers.
   4. As we see the illustration of the seeking savior in Joseph’s life, we also see seven salvation similarities.
   5. Genesis 45:1
      1. The wicked brothers who wronged Joseph and sinned against him are now standing before Joseph, the exalted sovereign.
      2. They do not recognize Joseph.
         1. Joseph is dressed like an Egyptian, he now speaks the Egyptian language, he’s on the throne, and he is no longer the young seventeen-year-old boy.
   6. Joseph loves his brothers and wants to restore, forgive, fellowship and commission them.
      1. This is a picture of our salvation, and it shows us seven salvation similarities or principles.
2. THE principle of compassion (genesis 45:1-3)
   1. God’s love is greater than all our sin.
   2. In order for us to be saved, God must reveal Himself to us.
      1. Romans 3:11
      2. 1 John 4:19
   3. Joseph acted roughly toward his brothers.
      1. Genesis 42:7
         1. The phrase “made himself strange unto them” means that he did not reveal himself to them.
      2. He spoke roughly to his brothers because he loved them.
         1. Genesis 42:24
         2. He spoke roughly to his brothers and brought them under conviction.
   4. God, in His love, allows us problems.
      1. After Adam and Eve sinned, the Bible says that the ground was cursed, not for their punishment but for their sake.
         1. Genesis 3:17
      2. The worst thing that could happen to Hell-bound sinners would be to live a life of ease with no difficulty, no pain and no problem.
      3. It was a famine that brought Joseph’s brothers to Egypt; they had a hunger.
         1. If we never had any needs, then we would not come to the Lord.
      4. God allows us heartaches and pains.
         1. If only we could see how much pain He has when He sees us have pain.
            1. Joseph, when speaking roughly to his brothers, was so overcome with emotion that he had to leave the room and weep.
   5. The heartaches, difficulties, disappointments and pain in our lives is the silken cord God is using to draw us to Himself.
      1. He loves us, no matter what the appearances may seem.
   6. Joseph wept tears of joy when he was able to make himself known to his brothers, and there is joy in Heaven when one sinner comes home.
   7. God loves us.
      1. Romans 5:8
3. the principle of conviction (genesis 45:3)
   1. No one is truly saved apart from the conviction of sin.
   2. Joseph brought his brothers to a point where they were in great conviction.
      1. Genesis 45:3
         1. They were terrified and stunned.
      2. They had misused, abused and refused Joseph; and now Joseph was the one with absolute authority.
      3. Joseph could have put them to death if he had wished, and they trembled at his presence.
   3. The fear of God is missing in the average church today.
      1. Psalm 111:10
   4. No one has ever been saved who has not first been convicted of his lost estate before God.
      1. 1 Timothy 1:15
   5. Luke 18:9-14
      1. Jesus gave this parable about a man who stood and prayed with himself, thankful that he was not as other men.
      2. In the Greek language, the tax collector literally said, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner.”
      3. Jesus said that the man who failed to admit his own need because of his lostness went home not saved.
         1. He went home dignified, but the tax collector went home justified.
   6. Have you ever been under the conviction of sin?
      1. We can admit that we’re wrong and never really be convicted of sin.
      2. A court may convict us of crimes, conscious may convict us of wrongdoing, but only the Holy Spirit of God can truly convict of sin.
   7. Many people join churches like they’re doing God a wild favor, but they have never seen themselves as sinners in the sight of a righteous and holy God.
   8. We must be convicted of sin in order to be saved.
4. the principle of conversion (genesis 45:4-8)
   1. God’s compassion causes Him to love us.
   2. In order to be saved, we must come to Him, yielding to His Lordship.
   3. How are we saved?
      1. Ephesians 2:8-10
         1. Salvation is by grace.
         2. Genesis 45:4-8
            1. Even though the brothers sold Joseph into slavery, God had a purpose.
            2. God loved the brothers so much that even while they were committing all of this wickedness, God was working behind the scenes to make Joseph a savior.

Romans 5:8

* + - * 1. Joseph was not minimizing their sin; he was emphasizing God’s grace.
  1. Calvary was the greatest tragedy in man’s dealings with God, but it was God’s greatest triumph in His dealings with man.
     1. The brothers’ misuse and abuse of Joseph was wickedness, but over it all and behind it all was God working it together for His glory.
     2. Calvary was God’s greatest victory when Jesus died for man’s sin.
  2. The principle of conversion is by grace through faith.
     1. Genesis 45:4
        1. At the moment when Joseph invited them to come to him, the brothers had a decision to make.
        2. When the brothers came to him, they took that step of faith.
  3. After the brothers came near to him, Joseph shared that he had a plan for them that was unto good works.
     1. Genesis 45:6-7
        1. Joseph was over all of Egypt, and their preservation and deliverance was possible because of Joseph’s exaltation.
     2. Jesus Christ is not now a baby in a manger, nor is He a man nailed to a cross; Jesus is the exalted King of kings and Lord of lords.
  4. How do we come to Jesus?
     1. We come to Him because it is by grace.
     2. We come through faith.
     3. We come unto good works to bow our knees to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. the principle of confession (genesis 45:9-13)
   1. Once we give our hearts to the Lord, then it is our job to confess Him openly and publicly.
   2. Joseph told his brothers that he had forgiven them and restored them, and now there were others that he wanted to bring into his glory.
      1. Joseph commissioned his brothers and commanded them to confess him to those others.
      2. Genesis 45:4
         1. In this passage, Joseph said, “Come.”
      3. Genesis 45:9
         1. In this passage, Joseph said, “Go.”
   3. All of the Gospel can be summed up in these two phrases:
      1. “Come unto Me.”
         1. Matthew 11:28
      2. “Go ye into all the world.”
         1. Mark 16:15-16
            1. What right have we to call ourselves children of God if we fail to obey Him?
            2. Our Lord has given us a Great Commission to go into all the world and share the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. Joseph’s brothers were to share this message:
      1. We once rejected him.
      2. God has raised him up on high.
      3. He has a name that is above every name.
      4. The world is now at his feet.
      5. He is the fairest of ten thousand.
      6. He has forgiven all of our sins.
      7. He wants us to be with him and to share his glory.
   5. The message that Joseph’s brothers were to share is the message we’re to share about the Lord Jesus.
2. the principle of communion (genesis 45:14-15)
   1. We have been redeemed, forgiven and commissioned to fellowship with our King.
   2. Joseph and his brothers hugged and talked.
   3. Jesus loves us that He might hug us, weep with us and talk with us.
      1. The Lord Jesus wants to hear us talk with Him.
      2. He is interested in the little things of our lives, as well as the big things.
   4. God desires fellowship with us.
      1. He wants more than servants.
         1. He redeemed us because He wants us to know Him, to love Him and to fellowship with Him.
3. the principle of compensation (genesis 45:16-23)
   1. God saves us entirely by grace and then enriches us and supplies us for service.
   2. Joseph now calls them his brothers, and he never mentions their guilt.
      1. Their guilt is blotted out.
   3. Joseph introduced his brothers to Pharaoh.
      1. Hebrews 2:11
      2. The Lord Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters and to present us before the throne.
   4. The resources of the throne of the mightiest nation on Earth at that time were laid at the brothers’ feet.
      1. If they needed anything, all they had to do was ask in Joseph’s name, and it would be given to them.
      2. As Christians, the Lord is rich unto all that call upon Him.
         1. Romans 10:12
   5. Joseph commissioned his brothers and told them not to worry about their “stuff.”
      1. Neither do we need to worry about our stuff.
         1. Matthew 6:33
         2. Colossians 2:10
         3. Philippians 4:19
   6. Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God and the infinite resources of God to carry it out.
      1. Whatever we need to get the job done, God will supply.
4. the principle of communication (genesis 45:24-28)
   1. We communicate by our love.
      1. Joseph encouraged his brothers to not fall out by the way.
         1. Genesis 45:24
         2. We should be careful to not get into silly arguments.
      2. John 13:35
      3. Jacob, at first, did not believe the brothers’ report.
         1. Genesis 45:26
         2. One of the greatest means we have of convincing the Jacobs of this world is by our love.
   2. We are to communicate by our lips.
      1. The brothers told Jacob the words of Joseph.
         1. Genesis 45:27
      2. We are to take the message of Jesus to others.
   3. We are to communicate by our lives.
      1. Jacob did not believe at first, but he saw all of the goods the brothers brought back.
      2. The brothers had left as paupers and returned with wagonloads of goods.
      3. The world will be convinced when they see us united with wagonloads of God’s grace; when they see something in us that they cannot explain apart from the good hand of God upon us.
5. CONCLUSION
   1. No matter who you are or what you may have done, God loves you and will save you today.
   2. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   3. 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.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16