

## SERMON OUTLINE

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

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Genesis 45

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2253

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There are none so bad they cannot be saved and none so good they need not be saved.
- b) God wants us saved so much that He has given us many wonderful illustrations in the Bible.
  - i) 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.
- c) Joseph's life could be put into four categories:
  - i) Joseph the beloved son
    - (1) He was his father's beloved son, just as Jesus is.
  - ii) 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.
  - iii) Joseph the exalted sovereign
    - (1) Joseph is taken from the pit and the prison and is exalted.
      - (a) Genesis 41:38-44
  - iv) Joseph the seeking savior
    - (1) Joseph sought, brought, forgave, restored and fellowshiped with his brothers.
- d) As we see the illustration of the seeking savior in Joseph's life, we also see seven salvation similarities.
- e) Genesis 45:1
  - i) The wicked brothers who wronged Joseph and sinned against him are now standing before Joseph, the exalted sovereign.
  - ii) 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.
- f) Joseph loves his brothers and wants to restore, forgive, fellowship and commission them.
  - i) 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)

- a) God's love is greater than all our sin.
- b) In order for us to be saved, God must reveal Himself to us.
  - i) Romans 3:11
  - ii) 1 John 4:19
- c) Joseph acted roughly toward his brothers.
  - i) Genesis 42:7

- (1) The phrase “made himself strange unto them” means that he did not reveal himself to them.
  - ii) 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.
  - d) God, in His love, allows us problems.
    - i) 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
    - ii) 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.
    - iii) 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.
    - iv) God allows us heartaches and pains.
      - (1) If only we could see how much pain He has when He sees us have pain.
        - (a) Joseph, when speaking roughly to his brothers, was so overcome with emotion that he had to leave the room and weep.
  - e) The heartaches, difficulties, disappointments and pain in our lives is the silken cord God is using to draw us to Himself.
    - i) He loves us, no matter what the appearances may seem.
  - f) 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.
  - g) God loves us.
    - i) Romans 5:8
- 3) THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVICTION (GENESIS 45:3)
- a) No one is truly saved apart from the conviction of sin.
  - b) Joseph brought his brothers to a point where they were in great conviction.
    - i) Genesis 45:3
      - (1) They were terrified and stunned.
    - ii) They had misused, abused and refused Joseph; and now Joseph was the one with absolute authority.
    - iii) Joseph could have put them to death if he had wished, and they trembled at his presence.
  - c) The fear of God is missing in the average church today.
    - i) Psalm 111:10
  - d) No one has ever been saved who has not first been convicted of his lost estate before God.
    - i) 1 Timothy 1:15
  - e) Luke 18:9-14
    - i) Jesus gave this parable about a man who stood and prayed with himself, thankful that he was not as other men.

- ii) In the Greek language, the tax collector literally said, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner.”
  - iii) 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.
  - f) Have you ever been under the conviction of sin?
    - i) We can admit that we’re wrong and never really be convicted of sin.
    - ii) 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.
  - g) 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.
  - h) We must be convicted of sin in order to be saved.
- 4) THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERSION (GENESIS 45:4-8)
- a) God’s compassion causes Him to love us.
  - b) In order to be saved, we must come to Him, yielding to His Lordship.
  - c) How are we saved?
    - i) Ephesians 2:8-10
      - (1) Salvation is by grace.
      - (2) Genesis 45:4-8
        - (a) Even though the brothers sold Joseph into slavery, God had a purpose.
        - (b) 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.
          - (i) Romans 5:8
        - (c) Joseph was not minimizing their sin; he was emphasizing God’s grace.
  - d) Calvary was the greatest tragedy in man’s dealings with God, but it was God’s greatest triumph in His dealings with man.
    - i) 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.
    - ii) Calvary was God’s greatest victory when Jesus died for man’s sin.
  - e) The principle of conversion is by grace through faith.
    - i) 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.
  - f) After the brothers came near to him, Joseph shared that he had a plan for them that was unto good works.
    - i) Genesis 45:6-7
      - (1) Joseph was over all of Egypt, and their preservation and deliverance was possible because of Joseph’s exaltation.

- ii) 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.
  - g) How do we come to Jesus?
    - i) We come to Him because it is by grace.
    - ii) We come through faith.
    - iii) We come unto good works to bow our knees to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 5) THE PRINCIPLE OF CONFESSION (GENESIS 45:9-13)
- a) Once we give our hearts to the Lord, then it is our job to confess Him openly and publicly.
  - b) 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.
    - i) Joseph commissioned his brothers and commanded them to confess him to those others.
    - ii) Genesis 45:4
      - (1) In this passage, Joseph said, "Come."
    - iii) Genesis 45:9
      - (1) In this passage, Joseph said, "Go."
  - c) All of the Gospel can be summed up in these two phrases:
    - i) "Come unto Me."
      - (1) Matthew 11:28
    - ii) "Go ye into all the world."
      - (1) Mark 16:15-16
        - (a) What right have we to call ourselves children of God if we fail to obey Him?
        - (b) Our Lord has given us a Great Commission to go into all the world and share the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - d) Joseph's brothers were to share this message:
    - i) We once rejected him.
    - ii) God has raised him up on high.
    - iii) He has a name that is above every name.
    - iv) The world is now at his feet.
    - v) He is the fairest of ten thousand.
    - vi) He has forgiven all of our sins.
    - vii) He wants us to be with him and to share his glory.
  - e) The message that Joseph's brothers were to share is the message we're to share about the Lord Jesus.
- 6) THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNION (GENESIS 45:14-15)
- a) We have been redeemed, forgiven and commissioned to fellowship with our King.
  - b) Joseph and his brothers hugged and talked.
  - c) Jesus loves us that He might hug us, weep with us and talk with us.

- i) The Lord Jesus wants to hear us talk with Him.
    - ii) He is interested in the little things of our lives, as well as the big things.
  - d) God desires fellowship with us.
    - i) He wants more than servants.
      - (1) He redeemed us because He wants us to know Him, to love Him and to fellowship with Him.
- 7) THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPENSATION (GENESIS 45:16-23)
- a) God saves us entirely by grace and then enriches us and supplies us for service.
  - b) Joseph now calls them his brothers, and he never mentions their guilt.
    - i) Their guilt is blotted out.
  - c) Joseph introduced his brothers to Pharaoh.
    - i) Hebrews 2:11
    - ii) The Lord Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters and to present us before the throne.
  - d) The resources of the throne of the mightiest nation on Earth at that time were laid at the brothers' feet.
    - i) If they needed anything, all they had to do was ask in Joseph's name, and it would be given to them.
    - ii) As Christians, the Lord is rich unto all that call upon Him.
      - (1) Romans 10:12
  - e) Joseph commissioned his brothers and told them not to worry about their "stuff."
    - i) Neither do we need to worry about our stuff.
      - (1) Matthew 6:33
      - (2) Colossians 2:10
      - (3) Philippians 4:19
  - f) Behind every command of God is the omnipotent power of God and the infinite resources of God to carry it out.
    - i) Whatever we need to get the job done, God will supply.
- 8) THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNICATION (GENESIS 45:24-28)
- a) We communicate by our love.
    - i) 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.
    - ii) John 13:35
    - iii) 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.
  - b) We are to communicate by our lips.
    - i) The brothers told Jacob the words of Joseph.

- (1) Genesis 45:27
- ii) We are to take the message of Jesus to others.
- c) We are to communicate by our lives.
  - i) Jacob did not believe at first, but he saw all of the goods the brothers brought back.
  - ii) The brothers had left as paupers and returned with wagonloads of goods.
  - iii) 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.

9) CONCLUSION

- a) No matter who you are or what you may have done, God loves you and will save you today.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) 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