
Text: Genesis [45-50](#)

Republic, Oct. 6, 2024

Title: The Tough, but Inspiring, Life of Joseph, Pt. 5

Review of Part 4:

XI. The 9 brothers go home to their father with food from Egypt, but Joseph kept one brother in jail until the other brother returned with Benjamin.

XII. They eat up all the food they got from Egypt (probably a period of 6 weeks), then they are forced to go back to Egypt with Benjamin, to get more food despite their father, Jacob's, hesitancy about taking Benjamin.

XIII. The brothers arrive back in Egypt, & come before Joseph with Benjamin. Joseph invites them to his house and serves them a feast, each brother seated in the order of their age.

XIV. Joseph comes up with a plan to keep Benjamin, then he realizes it would be too hard on his father, so the testing of his brothers is over. Joseph ends up revealing to his brothers that he is Joseph, the one they sold in slavery.

Where we last left off on Part 4:

[Genesis 45:3-5](#) (NIV)

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "**I am Joseph!** Is my father still living?" **But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.**

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "**I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!**

⁵ **And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.**

[Genesis 45:9-15](#) (NIV)

⁹ Now hurry back to my father and say to him, "This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.

¹⁰ **You shall live in the region of Goshen** and be near me--you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have.

¹¹ I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute."

¹² "You can see for yourselves, & so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who

am speaking to you.

13 Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly."

14 **Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.**

15 **And he kissed all his brothers & wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.**

It was a very tender, emotional time. We mentioned that it would be fun to know all that Joseph and his brothers talked about afterward. (verse 15)

----- End of Review -----

For today's sermon, let's start at:

Genesis 45:16 (NIV)

16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased.

Pharaoh appreciated Joseph so much, that he reaches out to Joseph's family to help them. You can see this, in the next few verses.

Genesis 45:17-20 (NIV)

17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan,

18 and bring your father and your families back to me. **I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.'**

19 "You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come.

20 **Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours.'**"

In verse 18 Pharaoh gave his authority for Joseph's family to live on land that was the best of Egypt, described as the "fat of the land." Earlier, in verse 10, it said that land was Goshen.

Map of Goshen on data projector screen

Dake's Commentary says this about Goshen:

"It was suited for flocks and shepherds because the land was well watered by springs and elevated above the annual overflow of the Nile."

In addition to what Pharaoh ordered, Joseph did the following, starting in verse 21:

Genesis 45:21-24 (NIV)

- ²¹ So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey.
- ²² To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes.
- ²³ And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread & other provisions for his journey.
- ²⁴ **Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!"**

Why would Joseph think they might quarrel on the way home? What would he think they would quarrel about?

Genesis 45:25-26 (NIV)

- ²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.
- ²⁶ They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them.

To get the full impact of what happened here, you just need to think about what it would have been like to be Jacob. Your son was supposedly killed over 22 years ago. Now, you are being told that he is still alive.

What would your response be? "No.... No way. What do you mean he's alive?"

You, too, would feel stunned, as you tried to sort out your shocked thoughts.

Genesis 45:27-28 (NIV)

- ²⁷ But when they told him (*Jacob*) everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.
- ²⁸ And Israel said, "**I'm convinced!** My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

So, do you think that the brothers admitted to selling Joseph as a slave when he was a teenager?

XV. Joseph has been blessed by his relationship being restored with his brothers and father. Then Joseph blesses the entire family.

Genesis 46:1-4 (NIV)

- ¹ So Israel (*Jacob*) set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices **to the God of his father Isaac**.
- ² And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!"
"Here I am," he replied.
- ³ "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for **I will make you into a great nation there**. (*grow your numbers*)
- ⁴ I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."
-

In verse 3 God did grow them into a great nation. They went from 70 people to over a million in a period of time of 430 years, until Moses led them out of Egypt later on. They truly did become a great nation as God told Jacob.

God was saying in verse 4 that Joseph would be there when he died. And, this is exactly what ended up happening.

Genesis 46:5-7 (NIV)

- ⁵ Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel's sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him.
- ⁶ They also took with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan, **and Jacob and all his offspring** went to Egypt.
- ⁷ He took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters-- **all his offspring**. (*See below's verse 27 for exact numbers*)

Go on down to verse 27 of [Genesis 46](#):

Genesis 46:27-29 (NIV)

- ²⁷ With the two sons who had been born to Joseph in Egypt, the members of Jacob's family, which went to Egypt, **were seventy in all**. (*Joseph's family and Jacob's*

family were 70 total)

- ²⁸ Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen,
- ²⁹ **Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time.**

How would you have felt if you were in Joseph's place?

You can see Joseph's emotions coming out in Gen. 46:29 after he met the entire family at Goshen, especially his father.

Genesis 46:30 (NIV)

- ³⁰ Israel said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen for myself that you are still alive."

Even though Jacob said that, he got to spend 17 more years with his son before he died.

According to a later verse, [Gen. 47:9](#), his father was [130](#) years old at the time he came to Goshen. So, Joseph got to be around his father for 17 yrs before he died **at the age of 147**, as stated in [Genesis 47:28](#). THAT was a blessing to be around his father that long.

XVI. Blessings, Prophecies over the children and Grandchildren

Chapter 47 deals with Jacob's meeting with Pharaoh, as well as the severity of the famine. Chapters 48 and 49 deal with the blessings **that Jacob** prophesied over all his own children as well as Joseph's children when he was about to die.

XVII. The final day of Jacob are written about in [Genesis 49](#) and [Genesis 50](#).

Genesis 49:29-33 (NIV)

- ²⁹ Then he gave them these instructions: "I am about to be gathered to my people. Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron (*E-fron*) the Hittite,
- ³⁰ the cave in the field of Machpelah (*Mack-pea-luh*), near Mamre (*Mam-ree*) in Canaan, which Abraham bought as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite,

along with the field.

- 31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried, there Isaac & his wife Rebekah were buried, and there I buried Leah.
- 32 The field and the cave in it were bought from the Hittites."
- 33 When Jacob had finished giving instructions to his sons, he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

Do you find it fascinating that Jacob got to finish all his comments before he died?

Genesis 50:1-14 (NIV)

- 1 Joseph threw himself upon his father and wept over him and kissed him.
- 2 Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him,
- 3 taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days.
- 4 When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's court, "If I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh for me. Tell him,
- 5 'My father made me swear an oath and said, "I am about to die; bury me in the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan." Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'"
- 6 Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do."
- 7 **So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him--the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt--**
- 8 besides all the members of Joseph's household and his brothers and those belonging to his father's household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen.
- 9 Chariots and horsemen also went up with him. **It was a very large company.**
- 10 When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father.
- 11 When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning." That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim. (*Miz-ray-im*)
- 12 So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them:
- 13 They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah (*Mack-pea-luh*), near Mamre (*Mam-ree*), which Abraham had bought as a burial place from Ephron (*E-fron*) the Hittite, along with the field.
- 14 After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and

all the others who had gone with him to bury his father.

XVIII. After Jacob dies, Joseph's brothers get worried that Joseph will hold a grudge against them, and become revengeful by turning against them.

Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

This is what happens if you always think in fleshly terms. You never trust people. And, if you do not change, the problems you had all your life will keep coming up in your thinking every day. Joseph's brothers didn't think like Joseph. Joseph was a true follower of God. He thought like God thinks. He saw things like God sees things. The brother STILL did not get that themselves.

In our last sermon, we saw where Joseph cried and cried when he introduced himself to his brothers. *Now they think he will turn on them? What, did they think the crying Joseph was fake? Did they think everything Joseph had done for them was just to please his father?*

Sometimes people accuse others of things because that is how they are themselves. *I mean, where else did they come up with this idea that Joseph was now going to be revengeful?* It is because that is how THEY would think. They would be revengeful.

Jacob and Joseph's brothers were in Egypt around Joseph for 17 yrs. *So, 17 years after being around Joseph, at least some of the brothers are worried that Joseph is going to become revengeful on them now that their father has died?*

Genesis 50:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died:

¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." ...

I did not come across anything in scripture that said Jacob actually said these things.

So, apparently this was a lie, and a plan on the brothers' part, to keep from getting killed by Joseph.

Do you see the difference between Joseph's brothers and Joseph? Do you see the attitude and thinking difference?

And, let me tell you there are both types of christians even today - ones who truly run their own lives with their own thinking, and ones who truly listen to God, even trying to think like God thinks. Joseph and his brothers' are an example of that.

Ask yourself this morning: "Which one am I? Am I like Joseph's brothers, or am I like Joseph?"

Let's get back to the rest of verse 17:

Genesis 50:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ ... When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

Why would Joseph weep at this point?

Joseph had to have been a tender-hearted guy. He saw how they were thinking, and what they were up to, and it made him cry.

Are you a cold natured person, or are you a tender-hearted person?

Genesis 50:18-19 (NIV)

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "**Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?**"

"Am I in the place of God?" In other words, *am I God? Do I live my life by doing what I want to do, or what God wants? Is it my job to do revengeful things?* That is what Joseph was asking them.

It is a rhetorical question. The answer is he refuses to be revengeful.

Ask yourselves: "*Do I try to be like God, thinking I have the power of revenge? Or, do I understand my place in life?*"

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

²⁰ **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good** to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Joseph acknowledges the brothers' intentions was to harm him. He does not down-play that point. But, then he tells his brothers that God allowed their evil intentions to turn into a good thing, so that many lives would someday be saved, including theirs. Joseph had already told them something similar in [Gen. 45:5-8](#). Apparently they did not believe him.

If Joseph had not been sold as a slave, and had not gone through all he went through, including interpreting Pharaoh's dream, then Egypt would not have been saving food for 7 yrs before the famine. Had they not saved food, many, many people would have died, including Joseph's family, which happened to be God's people, too.

You have a choice in life: You can look at every negative thing you face, & your family faces, as things that make you bitter, & not see what God wants you to see. Or you can look for the lessons to learn from experiencing life from God's view-points. It is your choice. You can run your own life, or allow God to run it.

Many people live their lives always bitter at something someone did or said. They never learn. They are always at war with someone. They think just like an un-saved person thinks, no difference between them and someone not saved.

God's true followers learn what God wants them to learn. They look beyond the things that people do to them, or what people say. They always try to experience life as their own lessons, and that God has a bigger plan.

Some people will NEVER get this. They have spent their entire lives blaming other people, and they never "get it." And, they have spent their lives making their own decisions instead of allowing God to guide them continually.

In Verse 21, Joseph continues by saying:

Genesis 50:21 (NIV)

²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph was a different person than his brothers. His attitude was entirely different. His way of looking at things was different. *Why?* Because he looked at everything like God wanted him to look at things. He thought constantly like God thinks: "How does God want him to view this?"

Joseph was the perfect example of how we need to view life, and view problems with other people. Anytime in your own life when you start to develop an attitude about something, you need to look back at the life of Joseph, and remind yourself of him.

Conclusion-

The details of Joseph's life are written down in Genesis, starting with [Genesis 37](#) and going all the way through [Genesis 50](#), 14 total chapters about his life.

Apparently, God thought the lessons of Joseph's life were very important for every Christian to learn that He made sure 14 chapters of his life was covered.

I think we can end by saying these 3 things:

1. LIFE IS ABOUT GROWTH, OUR GROWTH, not about what we do not like about someone else, or what someone else did. *What can we learn? What is God showing us?*
2. Life is also about the importance of **keep trusting in God.**
3. And, life is understanding that God's ways are not our ways. It is highly likely that He has a much bigger plan than what we can see.

How can you become like Joseph? What if you are more like his brothers, how should you change?

FIRST, Tell God that you struggle in this area of your life. Ask forgiveness, and ask Him to help you think and look at life like Joseph.

SECOND, you are going to have to re-program your mind to fight the tendency to go back

to the old life, the old way of thinking. Every time the tendency to think the old way comes into your mind, you are going to have to say "NO!! I am going to view life like Joseph viewed life."

THIRD, consider memorizing 2 Bible verses:

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.