

Tried and Tested

Genesis 50:15-21

Sermon Outline

A. The Conscious on Fire (vs. 15; Romans 12:17-21):

1. Joseph's brothers understood that everything relevant to their father's burial was fully completed.
2. Joseph's brothers said to each other what they were thinking within their hearts.
3. We sometimes think that time heals wounds. Wounds are not healed until we deal with them with a lot of grace, humility, and with a focus on the common good.
4. Jacob died a natural death he was not killed.
5. The brothers believed that Joseph would bear animosity against them, because of an unforgiving heart, which can lead to tragic results for them and their families.
6. They believed that Joseph was always planning in his heart to go back to the point when they betrayed him.
7. They had an extremely negative inner attitude towards God and Joseph and as a result, they cannot live up to the good standards of God as it relates to the jealousy, they felt toward Joseph.
8. They admit that what they set out in their hearts to do to Joseph, they were committed to accomplishing all of it.

B. Don't Know What to Do (vs. 16-17):

1. They sent a messenger who they know would be committed to let him know to stop them from carrying out their command. They wanted to make sure this message was delivered.
2. The messenger gave to Joseph the exact message that was given to him.
3. They told the messenger to tell Joseph that their father commanded them to tell Joseph what the father had in his heart to say to Joseph all along.
4. Joseph's brothers are saying that they were eyewitnesses to the message the father requested them to tell Joseph.
5. Jacob requested that Joseph remove the debt that was owed to him by his brothers with a clear conscience.

C. Grace Under Fire (vs. 17c-18):

1. With a very loud and strong outward emotion of grief Joseph wept. Joseph did not cry, he wept, not once but several times, and God made sure it is recorded (42:24; 43:30; 45:2,14; 46:29).[±]
2. Joseph with dynamic motion communicated with their servant. He could have demanded they come and talk directly to him because he had the power to do so. Instead, because of his humility, Joseph served them.
3. Apparently, the servant went and reported what Joseph said to his brothers.
4. When Joseph's brother came to him, they seemed to truly desire coming to him a way of life. This opened the door for a better relationship.
5. To fall or to throw oneself down before someone is to put oneself into the authority or control of that person.
6. Bowing before was different than the first time because now the entire incident is the focus.
7. They were telling Joseph to focus on this specific message not their past.
8. They were willing to be his indentured slaves.
9. Joseph said to them what he was thinking in his heart.
10. There was no need to provide him emotional reverence or awe because Joseph was not going to harm them.
11. Joseph could not exchange his place with God to deliver to them an "eye for an eye, or a tooth for a tooth."

12. They created in their minds this evil act after much meditation and no influence from Satan. It was something they skillfully worked at doing and with clever military precision they purposed in their hearts to do him evil.
13. They demonstrated an inability to come up to the good standards of God and this was because they had a very inner negative attitude towards God and Joseph.
14. God meant the evil they intended to do with the same skillfully, clever military precision and with a purposeful heart to do Joseph well. God's every intention was to work this out for good (Romans 8:28). So, every move that was made, even in prison was good.
15. God took the evil they intended and turned it around to provide Joseph a pleasant and excellent life which provided practical, economic benefits for a greater result.

D. Remember God (vs. 19-21):

1. God did this to establish a legacy based on His creative activity and faithfulness which is due to His ethical obligation and deep commitment to His covenant with Abraham.
2. God saved Joseph and his people to experience a true relationship with God which in turn provides enjoying security, protection, and deliverance. This one day leads to eternal life through Jesus Christ. To protect everyone from evil; God used this to bless everyone with good.
3. Because God intends this for good there was no need to give Joseph emotional reverence or awe. They do not need to worry about him harming them, because Joseph's heart is to please God,
4. Even though the famine had five more years left Joseph committed to providing their families with all the food they need.
5. Joseph's compassion made them breathe out. They were completely convinced that they had no need to fear nor become Joseph's slaves.
6. Joseph's words were spoken with deep feelings towards them and with much wisdom and understanding. He made it clear that he did not have any grudge against them and have absolutely no desire to harm them or their families.
7. When grace came under fire Joseph's commitment to God saved lives and established God's legacy.
8. 50:26. Joseph's age. Joseph dies at the age of 110, considered the ideal age for an Egyptian. Examination of mummies has demonstrated that the average life expectancy in Egypt was between forty and fifty years. The use of the coffin or sarcophagus in mummification was an Egyptian, not an Israelite, practice.¹

¹ Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H. (2000). *The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament* (electronic ed.). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

