



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and Revelation!

Genesis 44:1-45:28

Message #45 of 50 – S952

Sermon given on July 4, 2021

@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Faith and Revelation!

Genesis 44:1-45:28

Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 44**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- All true believers have one thing in common
- At some point in their life, they had some type of encounter with Jesus
- For some, it was a dramatic or emotional experience
- Like Paul's experience on the road to Damascus
- For others, it was quiet, intimate
- At some point, whether recently or a long time ago, Jesus revealed Himself to us and said, 'I am Jesus'
- That revelation was an invitation – a call to respond
- There are many ways you could respond to Jesus
- The response God is looking for is faith – believing and acting like you believe
- In our study in Genesis, Joseph has been preparing to reveal his identity to his brothers
- Part of those preparations are to test them to see if they have changed since they sold him into slavery
- Let's get into this interesting text
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and Revelation!**
- In the last chapter, Jacob finally sends Benjamin to Egypt with his brothers so that they can get more food – there is a famine
- The last time the brothers were in Egypt, they didn't recognize Joseph but he recognized them
- He treated them harshly and demanded they bring Benjamin back and then imprisoned Simeon

- This time Joseph invites them into his home and prepares a feast for them
- The next morning
- **Genesis 44:1-2**
- Joseph is testing his brothers – putting them into the impossible situation of choosing their own safety over that of their youngest brother Benjamin
- **Genesis 44:3-5**
- There are many legends which speak of cups having supernatural ability to impart wisdom and knowledge and prophecy.
- It is not likely that Joseph engaged in this superstitious practice – it was probably just a cup.
- **Genesis 44:6-11**
- Imagine how shocked they must have been when the first sack was opened and there was their money – again
- Last time that happened they believed God was setting them up
- But notice, the steward makes no mention of the money
- **Genesis 44:12-15**
- This is an impossible situation – will they attempt to save themselves and abandon Benjamin? Like they had previously done with Joseph!
- **Genesis 44:16**
- Judah is saying that we are all responsible
- They couldn't explain what happened, but they would all stand with Benjamin – radical change
- **Genesis 44:17**
- Here was their chance to get away and to be free of daddy's favorite
- **Genesis 44:18-34**
- Judah repeats the whole story
- Unbelievably, he offers to take Benjamin's place as a slave
- For 22 years they have lived with the grief and misery of their father
- The thought of going back without Benjamin was too much to bear
- One of the reasons God hates sin so much is the pain and suffering that it brings upon others
- Rarely will you come across a person whose life has not been harmed by the poor choices of others

- And sometimes the pain caused can take a lifetime to recover from
- Try to imagine the scene
- Joseph is probably sitting there looking very regal and powerful
- His brothers have come bowing before him fearing that something terrible is about to happen
- And at least one of them is willing to sacrifice himself for the youngest one
- This is what Joseph has been waiting for
- **Genesis 45:1-2**
- I wonder what the brothers are thinking.
- The first time they met ‘the Egyptian’ he was harsh with them and accused them of being spies.
- Then tells them they can’t come back without their youngest brother.
- They do that and this guy throws a big feast for them.
- And now he is crying like a baby. Is this guy insane?
- It is time for the big reveal
- **Genesis 45:3**
- Okay, now this guy is saying he is our brother who we haven’t seen in 22 years
- The brothers are speechless – and dismayed
- Wait! If this is Joseph – the same Joseph we sold into slavery – and he is a powerful ruler in Egypt – uh-oh, we could be in big trouble here
- Joseph’s revelation was not immediately welcome – not good news
- Joseph’s life points us to the life of Christ and especially to His dealings with the Jews
- Joseph was the favorite of his father – just as Jesus is the Father’s beloved Son
- Joseph’s brothers betrayed him into the hands of unbelievers – Jesus was betrayed, first by Judas and then by the Jewish religious leaders
- And just as Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, Jesus is going to reveal Himself a second time to the Jews **Zechariah 12:10**
And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

- They pierced Him on the cross and they will look upon Him at the Second Coming
 - And then mourning will be turned into joy **Romans 11:26-27**
And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”
 - The brothers’ initial response to Joseph’s revelation is not joy – it is fear and conviction
 - They remember what they did, and they are afraid that Joseph remembers what they did too!
 - An encounter with Jesus can have the same effect **John Phillips**
“The revelation of Jesus to a human heart is bound to awaken thoughts of sin. The first work of the Holy Spirit in a human soul is the work of conviction.”
 - The goal of conviction is repentance which leads to forgiveness and restoration
 - That’s what Joseph’s goal is – restoration
 - **Genesis 45:4-8**
 - Benjamin grew up hearing the stories about Joseph including how he had been killed by a wild animal
 - Now he hears that was a lie – his brothers had sold him
 - Joseph offers them freedom from the guilt of selling him into slavery
 - God sent me here – not you
 - The brothers were simply tools God used to accomplish His sovereign will – this is what providence is
- Providence: God using natural events within human choice to execute His predetermined supernatural will and plan.**
- Everything that has happened in your life happened for a reason
 - If someone used their freewill and did something bad that was harmful to you, that person’s choice did not cancel God’s perfect plan for your life
 - It is by faith that we experience the good God will make out of the bad
 - God used Joseph’s brothers and influenced events along the way – the dreams of Joseph, the baker and the butler, and Pharaoh
 - Repeatedly the Bible records that God was with Joseph and made him successful
 - The mystery of God’s sovereignty and providence and man’s freewill should be a source of continuous joy and wonder

- Whatever is going on in your life is a part of God's plan – your choices matter
- Joseph's brothers lived with the guilt of what they did to Joseph for 22 years
- And they caused their father great emotional pain
- **Genesis 45:9-15**
- God had sent Joseph to Egypt to save his whole family
- Even his hard-hearted brothers
- Word gets to Pharaoh that all this is going on
- **Genesis 45:16**
- Even though Joseph is a foreigner to the Egyptians, he is respected as the man who saved Egypt from the famine
- **Genesis 45:17-20**
- Not only does Joseph promise to take care of his family – Pharaoh also makes the same commitment
- 'do not be concerned about your goods' – don't worry about the things you have to leave behind to come to the kingdom.
- That is a great word for anyone hesitating to come to Jesus – the things of the kingdom are far greater than anything you might have to leave behind.
- **Genesis 45:21-24**
- Other translations say, 'Do not quarrel on the journey'
- Benjamin might have wanted an explanation
- The brothers may have argued about telling their father about how they had lied to him
- They might have wanted to argue about who was to blame
- Joseph saying, 'Just let it go!'
- **Genesis 45:25**
- Imagine Jacob's joy and relief to see not only Benjamin, but Simeon and the rest of his sons in the distance
- And then comes the revelation about Joseph
- **Genesis 45:26-28**
- Jacob had been living in a dark place for the last 22 years
- Not only had he lost his favorite son, but also his favorite wife Rachel had died giving birth to Benjamin

- It is never easy to lose someone you love
- It is as though a part of you has died with them
- But what Jacob/Israel says in verse 28 is a picture of the hope we have in Christ
- If your loved one received Christ – though they have left this world they are still alive, and you will go and see them after you leave this life
- When Joseph revealed himself to his brothers, their lives changed forever
- Joseph's brothers revealed that Joseph was still alive, it changed Israel forever
- In a similar way, when Jesus reveals Himself to someone, forever is changed for them
- And while salvation is a one-time event, Jesus doesn't stop revealing Himself to His people
- And if we are willing, Jesus reveals more of Himself to us day by day
- One of the greatest prayers you might pray is to ask God to open the eyes of your heart to see Jesus better and better
- Because the better you see Jesus, the more it changes you into His likeness and you live the life Jesus saved you for
- And then we should pray and ask God to use us to reveal Jesus to others through our lives so that their lives can be changed too
- Every time we open the Bible it should be to see Jesus
- Every time we pray, we should seek to hear from Jesus
- Every time we worship, we should seek to know His presence
- Every time we fellowship with other believers, we should seek to make Jesus known
- Jesus is alive! And His life is life to everyone who meets Him!
- Let's pray, open the eyes of our heart to see Jesus!
- **Prayer! Happy Independence Day!**