



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and Separation!

Genesis 46:1-34

Message #46 of 50 – S953

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Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

Faith and Separation!

Genesis 46:1-34

Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 46**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- We live in the most connected generation in history
- With the advent of smartphones and high-speed internet you can reach the ends of the earth
- Indonesia is geographically a long way away, but someone there could watch this service live on their cellphone
- People who can't make it to church can stay connected through the live stream
- Our daughter is 1,000 miles away, but we can video call and interact with our grandchildren anytime we want to
- With the introduction of platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok, and Instagram we can connect to a seemingly endless number of cultural voices
- And then Google and YouTube open a universe of information
- As Christians, how connected should we be?
- And is there a danger to being too connected?
- In our text this morning Joseph is going to do something that helps us to answer those questions
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open our heart
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and Separation!**
- In the last chapter, Joseph revealed who he was to his brothers and sent them back to Canaan to get their father and families to come to Egypt where he promised to take care of them
- Jacob is understandably shocked to hear that after mourning for Joseph for 22 years that he is alive
- And not just alive, he is a ruler in Egypt

- After he gets over his shock, he makes the decision to go to Egypt
 - **Genesis 45:28**
 - Jacob makes one significant stop along the way
 - **Genesis 46:1**
 - Beersheba was one of the last stops before the desert leading to Egypt
 - While there he offered sacrifices to God
 - Jacob was well aware of God's promise to give his descendants the land of Canaan
 - But here he is getting ready to leave the Promised Land because of a famine
 - His grandfather Abraham went to Egypt during a famine, and it was a disaster
 - His father Isaac tried to go to Egypt because of a famine, but God told him not to go
 - Now there is a famine in the land again – should he go to Egypt?
 - His son, Joseph, says it is God's will – and certainly Jacob's will was to go – but how does he know?
 - Thankfully, God is going to tell him
 - **Genesis 46:2-4**
 - God gives Jacob clear confirmation of His will for Jacob to go to Egypt with four divine promises
 - 'I will make of you a great nation there' – that is an old promise
 - This is the first time we see Egypt as the place where God will grow Jacob's family into a great nation
 - 'I will go down with you' – This is similar to what the Lord told Jacob as he was leaving Canaan to go to Padan Aram **Genesis 28:15**
- Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.**
- Jacob was excited to be reunited with Joseph
 - But it was no small thing that he was moving his whole family out of the land God promised him
 - 'I will also surely bring you up again' – don't worry, I will bring you back
 - It is likely that Jacob didn't make the connection between his going to Egypt and something God told Abraham **Genesis 15:13-14**

Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is* not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. ¹⁴ And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.”

- It had always been God’s plan to send Jacob’s family to grow into a great nation in Egypt
 - And so, Jacob makes the long journey
 - **Genesis 46:5-7**
 - God promised to make Jacob’s family into a great nation while they are in Egypt
 - Estimates are that there are between two and three million descendants of Jacob when they leave Egypt 430 years later
 - We are given a listing of what God started with
 - **Genesis 46:8-27**
 - Sometimes God doesn’t do things the way we think He will or the way we want him to **Isaiah 55:8-9**
- “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”**
- Jacob probably imagined God making his family a great nation while they were living in Canaan
 - Trusting God includes trusting Him when He leads you someplace you didn’t expect to go
 - Then comes the sweet reunion
 - **Genesis 46:28-30**
 - I am one of those types of guys that doesn’t let my emotions come out very often, but I am fairly certain I would have a hard time in this circumstance
 - It has been 22 years since they had seen each other
 - After a long while, Joseph says something to his brothers that seems odd
 - **Genesis 46:31-34**
 - On one hand we can understand why Joseph would want to put them there
 - Goshen was a very fertile part of Egypt
 - It was a great place to graze the herds and flocks
 - But it was also out away from the center of Egyptian life

- Joseph says that shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians
- Egyptian society was broken up into castes
- Based on the caste you were in, you would receive privileges, honor, respect, and benefits
- Our woke culture would lose their collective minds if that was how things were in America
- Shepherds were in the lowest caste
- Joseph was in the highest caste because of his position
- What was Joseph doing here – is he punishing his brothers for what they did to him?
- No – they are shepherds – but Joseph is trying to do something
- As far as we can tell Joseph has been the only God-worshipper in Egypt for the last 22 years
- The Egyptians worshipped many false gods – Ra, Osiris, Isis, Horus +
- Even though Joseph was immersed in Egyptian life, he kept himself separated spiritually
- And Joseph knew that he was experiencing the fullness of God’s grace because he was keeping himself separate
- Joseph’s brothers were not like Joseph
- Goshen was a good place for his family
- It was a place where they could flourish
- It was close enough to Joseph so that he could take care of them
- And it was far enough away from Egyptian life that they wouldn’t be easily corrupted
- Egypt was at a high point in its history at this time and for the next several hundred years
- Every temptation known to man was available in Egypt
- The Bible utilizes something known as types – a symbol or word picture from life used to describe a spiritual truth
- Egypt is used as a type of the world and its temptations
- One of the dangers of this hyper-connected world we are living in is the access we have to the temptations of this world
- And I am not just talking about the temptation of sexual immorality
- As dangerous as that is, even more dangerous are the ungodly and unholy worldviews

- We are not told what Joseph did to keep himself pure in the grossly impure culture of Egypt
- It is not a stretch to say that we are living in a culture that is a hundred times more unholy than Joseph
- Not because of the nature of the sin and temptations – very little has changed in that respect
- But in the availability of those temptation through the different ways we are exposed through screens – tv, computer, and mobile devices
- That is not to say that those things are evil – they just make finding evil a lot easier
- Turn to **2 Corinthians 6**
- God cares about what we are exposing our soul to **Romans 12:2**
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- If our minds are being bombarded by evil images, and thoughts, and wrong ideas and worldviews chances are they are being conformed to the world and not being transformed to prove the perfect will of God
- The apostle Paul talked about this
- **1 Corinthians 6:14-16**
- ‘lawlessness’ – living as if there is no law – and by extension as if there is no Lawgiver to whom you are accountable
- We should be careful not to attach ourselves to people like that
- And not just people, but their ideas as well
- Things like Critical Theory and its byproduct Critical Race Theory are worldviews that were created by people who deny God and the absolute truth of His Word
- Regardless of what its proponents say, it is an unholy attempt to right the wrong of racism in the world
- Paul goes on to tell us how to relate to things like that
- **2 Corinthians 6:17-18**
- ‘Come out from among them and be separate’
- Christians should have nothing to do with CT or CRT and they should stand on the truth of God’s Word against it

- This is true of all the false worldviews – gender identity and gender fluidity and all the other sexual perversions the alphabet groups are trying to push into our minds
- We are called by God to separate ourselves
- Joseph accomplished that by moving his family to Goshen – far away from the center of Egyptian life
- Turn to **John 17**
- We are going to partake of Communion in a few minutes
- Communion is for remembering what Jesus did so that we could be more like Him and less like the world
- Something changed in you when you received Christ
- **John 17:14-19**
- As we prepare to share in Communion, we should take a moment and examine our lives
- How separated are our lives from this world?
- We have to live in the world, but are we living like the world?
- Is there something in your life, that Jesus, the Savior of your soul, would say you should be separated from?
- Now is the time to turn away from that thing in your heart!
- God separated His people Israel in Goshen so that they could flourish
- A separated life in Christ is the one God can cause to flourish
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us 'come out from among them'
- **Prayer! Communion!**