



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Faith and God's Good!

Genesis 50:1-26

Message #50 of 50 – S958

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@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

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Faith and God's Good!

Genesis 50:1-26

Opening Comments

- Good morning – we will be in **Genesis 50**
- Today we conclude our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- There is a statement/response common in the church.
- Please respond out loud if you know it.
- God is good! All the time! All the time! God is good!
- If you want to supercharge your faith – this is what you need to believe – God is good! All the time!
- If we truly believe this, it will carry us through the times when the circumstances of our life are not good.
- We live in a world that is broken by sin and we are in a culture that has lost its way – it is lost
- Even good Christians who are doing their best to follow hard after Jesus will be touched by evil
- In today's text we explore this truth that God is good and that He is working things out for the good
- Let's pray and see what we can learn about God's goodness
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Faith and God's Good!**
- Chapter 49 included the account of Jacob's last words to his sons and his death
- Chapter 50 picks up immediately after Jacob's death
- **Genesis 50:1-3**
- Joseph holds a position of high authority and prestige in Egypt
- Even though the famine that made him famous in Egypt has been over for twelve years, people still see him as something of a savior
- As a sign of respect to Joseph the Egyptians mourn for Jacob as they would have for someone of great importance
- **Genesis 50:4-8**

- Joseph is being faithful to his father's last wishes
- Jacob wanted to be buried where his father and grandfather were – in the land that God had promised them
- **Genesis 50:9-11**
- 'beyond the Jordan' = just outside the Promised Land, Canaan, on the east side of the Jordan River
- Interesting that they take a route that is similar to the one the Israelites will take in the Exodus
- The locals think this is all very odd – a very Egyptian funeral so far from Egypt
- It seems that only Jacob's family crosses the Jordan for the final leg of this journey
- **Genesis 50:12-14**
- It has been almost forty years since Joseph was in Canaan
- They do what they need to do and then go back to Egypt
- Once the funeral is over, Joseph's brothers start to wonder what that means for them
- **Genesis 50:15**
- Joseph's brothers had hated him
- He was his father's favorite – coat of many colors
- He put his father's interests over his brother's and informed on them
- God had given him dreams that indicated that He would be a ruler over them – which happened
- Their hatred culminated in them selling Joseph into slavery and then lying to their father about it **Warren Wiersbe**
- **"We often suspect in others what we'd do ourselves if we had the opportunity."**
- If roles had been reversed, they would have hated Joseph, and if they had been in Joseph's position, they would be looking for revenge
- So, they come up with a scheme
- **Genesis 50:16-17a**
- Their father had been a schemer early in his life and here his sons are making up a story to deceive Joseph
- At least they are admitting that what they had done was evil
- **Genesis 50:17b**
- Joseph is weeping because he had already forgiven them.

- They have completely misjudged him.
- They have been carrying the burden of their guilt even after it had been forgiven by Joseph.
- The burden of guilt makes it impossible to live the abundant life Jesus promises to His people.
- When we confess our sins, God forgives us **1 John 1:9**
If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- And God has removed the guilt of our sins from us **Colossians 2:13-14**

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- But, if you are unforgiven, because of unrepentance, you still bear the guilt of your sin, and your spirit feels it.
- Inside yourself you know you deserve judgment – that is the burden of guilt.
- That is what the brothers are feeling.
- Even though Joseph has already forgiven them, they have not received that forgiveness by faith and continue to carry the burden of guilt.
- Some Christians carry the burden of guilt unnecessarily.
- When Christ died on the cross it was to set us free from the guilt of all our sin and to free us from the burden of all the sins committed against us.
- The penalty for all our sins was paid for on the cross of Christ.
- We are free!
- If we sin after we are saved, it doesn't incur the penalty of death for sin.
- But it does hinder our relationship with the God who saved us.
- Confession and repentance cleanses us from that sin and removes the temporal guilt that sin brings and allows us to walk in the freedom of Christ.
- A Christian who is walking in faith need never carry a burden of guilt – repent – confess – believe you are forgiven.
- If you don't, you are saying Jesus didn't do enough to set you free and you are calling God a liar.

- **Genesis 50:18**
- They are offering to serve Joseph to make up for what they have done and in the hopes of avoiding his wrath
- Many people believe that forgiveness is earned.
- It is with a lot of people but not with God.
- There is nothing we can do to earn forgiveness – God must give it to us – an expression of His grace.
- Joseph responds
- **Genesis 50:19**
- This is a rhetorical question – answer is, No!
- Joseph is saying that God is the only true judge.
- Joseph had already forgiven them
- There can be no judgment for someone who has been forgiven
- To withhold forgiveness is to attempt to take the place of God as judge.
- If we do that God will let us.
- Unfortunately, our imperfection makes us poor judges.
- It can be very liberating when we realize that we don't have to judge people.
- God is expert at it and He knows the perfect way and timing to judge – we do not!
- **Genesis 50:20**
- Joseph doesn't minimize their sin. What they did was evil.
- We need to be careful when we are talking to people who have made a mistake.
- Saying something like, "It's okay!" is false comfort.
- Sin is never okay!
- God is sovereign. His sovereignty is not thwarted by evil.
- Nothing keeps God from accomplishing His perfect will, not even evil.
- God intended to save the family of Jacob and make them into a great nation.
- It is pointless to speculate how God would have done that if the brothers had not betrayed Joseph – they did and God made good from it.

- Peter said something similar to the Jews about the crucifixion of Christ **Acts 2:22-24**

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

- Jesus on the cross = the greatest evil ever done – resulted in the salvation of countless millions.
- If there had not been the evil of the cross of Christ, there would be no forgiveness of sins and no eternal life in Heaven.
- God meant it for good!
- They had been living in fear because they had misjudged Joseph

- **Genesis 50:21**

- Fear has no place in the life of a believer **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

- If we love God with our whole being and love others as we should, there should be no fear **1 John 4:18**

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

- Because of our faith in Christ God has committed to care for us as His children **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, 7 casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- God's love for us ought to make us fearless
- Genesis ends with the end of the life of what may have been the most Christ-like person described in the Bible

- **Genesis 50:22-26**

- Joseph believes the same thing his father did, that God wasn't going to forget them while they were in Egypt.
- God would show up at some point after his death.
- The writer of Hebrews records this event as an expression of Joseph's faith **Hebrews 11:22**

By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.

- It was almost four hundred years later that God did visit them and they took his bones when they left

- Joseph could see, by faith, that God could bring good out of the evil around his life
- It takes spiritual eyes to see that – it is a spiritual gift from God
- In 2 Kings the king of Syria sends an army to capture the prophet Elisha **2 Kings 6:14**

Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

- One of Elisha's servants goes out and sees that they are surrounded – a hopeless situation **2 Kings 6:15**

And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?"

- Elisha reassured him that God was good and in control **2 Kings 6:16-17**

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- God is in control – always! God is good! All the time!
- We just need spiritual eyes to see that
- Pray – ask God to open your eyes so that you can see his good
- A good life is not one that is free of evil and difficult circumstances
- A good life is one that trusts that God is good all the time
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open our spiritual eyes - **Prayer!**