

The Book of Genesis

Chapter Forty Five

Joseph is Alive!

Lesson Verse:

I. Lesson Introduction

- A. As Judah finished his plea to substitute himself for Benjamin, Gen. 44, Joseph is moved with compassion. It is at this point that Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers. What made his revelation so Christ like is because it is a private matter reserved for the family.
- B. It was only after Joseph's servants left the room that Joseph made himself known. This moment of revelation is a three-fold picture of the fellowship Jesus has had and will have with His family. One of these was when Jesus had fellowship with His disciples after Judah left the upper room, *John 13:30*. When Jesus was alone with His eleven disciples, (Joseph was alone with his eleven brothers as well.) and the devil (Judas) had left them, *John 6:70*, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment (34-35). They should love one another. Joseph also proved to his brothers that he loved them and commanded them to bring the family to Egypt and not fall out along the way (24).
- C. The second picture is of that private time between Saviour and sinner. The confession that one is a sinner is a private matter between Creator and creature. It is only after a private confession that the born again child of God makes a public confession of accepting Jesus as their Saviour.
- D. The third picture represented here with Joseph and his brothers is the private revelation the church will enjoy with her Husband. The wedding of the Lamb is public. However, the marriage of the Lamb is a private matter between Husband and wife. Only those that have made themselves ready will be permitted to attend, *Rev 19:7*.

II. Study Lesson

A. The Revelation - I AM JOSEPH (3)

1. This is the moment Joseph has longed for and waited patiently. All the loneliness of the past 20 years of his life makes this one instant worth it all, *Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*
2. The famine has been sore in the land for two years (6). There are five more years to go. This is the second time that Joseph's kin have stood in his presence. Now is the moment.
3. It took two visits for Joseph's brothers to find out his identity, ***Acts 7:13***. Even so once again Joseph is the perfect type of Jesus, for it is at the Lord's Second Coming that Israel recognizes Him, *Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*
4. Private Confession (3).
 - a. Joseph cleared the room so he could have some private confession time with his family (1). It was not anyone's business what happened between these siblings 20 years ago. All it would take is for one servant to hear of what the brothers had done to Joseph and all it would cause is gossip and problems.
 - b. Here is a perfect picture of a sinner walking the church aisle and accepting the Lord as their Saviour. As they take the pastor's hand, they confess their sins privately. The pastor or the one giving the invitation does not normally give the sinner a microphone and tell them to confess their sins before the church body. If the sinner should do such, what happens is the past sins are expounded on more and take precedence over the new birth.
 - c. Here in Genesis 45 the Lord gave us an order of events. Once Joseph made it known whom he was and what position he occupied, his brothers had to get use to the truth. There were in shock. They thought he was dead (12).
 - d. Sinners facing the convicting power of the Holy Ghost must accept the fact that Jesus is alive, ***Acts 22:8***. Many think He is dead for they see more pictures of Him hanging on a cross than they do of the empty tomb, ***Mat 28:6***. It takes a few moments to understand that they will stand before the risen Saviour and give an account of their sins, ***Rom 14:11-12***. Those that are humble and realize their destiny accept the saving grace offered by the Lord, ***Acts 16:30***. The fools reject it, ***Psa 14:1***.

- e. Joseph spent some time making known to his brothers about the famine (6). He informed them what God had done (7). He assured them that he loved them with tears (14) and kisses (15). Furthermore he spent time comforting them so that they would accept the fact that there is no animosity between them (11), Surely they understand and know that he wants to have fellowship with them.
 - f. This meeting that Joseph has with his brothers is an insight as to what takes place between Jesus and the sinner. He assures us our sins are forgiven. He assures us and comforts us that our debt is paid. His love makes it known that we are free from the guilt of sin. All of this takes place in the twinkling of an eye.
5. Public Profession (16).
- a. It is not until v. 16 that profession is publicly made that Joseph's brothers had come. No one told what the brothers did to Joseph years ago. No one told how they laughed at him and tried to kill him. The public profession or proclamation is only that the brothers have come and that Joseph rejoices, *Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*
 - b. After the child of God makes a confession of sins to Jesus, the repentant one then boldly and publicly takes a stand and professes Jesus as their Saviour. What sins are confessed are not made public. The reason is those sins do not exist anymore. They are blotted out of the remembrance of God. Because God has forgotten those sins, there is not any reason for anyone to know of them either.
 - c. Joseph forgave his brothers. There was no need to broadcast it all over the world (Egypt) what they did 22 years ago. There is a lesson here for us saved folks as well. When one that has offended us repents, there is no need for us to broadcast the misdeed all over the world. The deed must be forgotten, ***Phil 3:13-14.***
 - d. Joseph wanted fellowship (4, 14, & 15).
 - e. Now that there has been confession and profession, the next step is fellowship within the beloved. Thus Joseph called his brothers to come near. He wept in their presence and kissed each of them and talked with them. This type of sweet fellowship only happens when there is nothing between brothers and sisters. It is when we weep one with another that we reveal the inner man has nothing to hide.
 - f. Each of us that have been born again experienced this same event. After Jesus revealed Himself to us, He wanted us near. We wanted to be near unto Him as well. It is a pleasant thing when brothers and sister dwell together in sweet communion whether in church or at home, ***Ps 133:1-3.***
 - g. It is only when this local church body comes together in harmony as one body that the fellowship is so sweet folks linger around the church house even after services is over. It is when the communion between the members of this local church body is one that members go to a restaurant after service and eat a meal together. That is fellowship within the body that we do not grow weary of, but must after a time part company because the body grows tired and we have obligations. We part with laughter, hugs, and a kiss of affection looking forward to the next time. Paul mentions this in ***Phil 2:1-3*** where he instructs the body to be one in unity.
 - h. Joseph and his brothers are establishing a foundation where they may be one in family and fellowship. Joseph has taken the lead to assure his brothers that they can build a relation.
 - i. The local church body already has the Foundation established for us. What we must do is build a fellowship of love one towards the others, ***1 John 3:11*** on the foundation laid by the Lord. *1 John 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.* If we as a church body would just love one another, we would make other folks hungry for the fellowship we enjoy. Love, and a lack thereof, makes one thirsty for more love, *Song 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.*
6. Joseph Assured Them With A Message Of Peace (5-8).
- a. There is little doubt that the brothers looked at Joseph and then at one another and shook their heads in disbelief. There was probably one or two that was down right afraid. However, this is where love conquers fears, *1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
 - b. There is no wonder they were troubled (3). Joseph had been out of their lives for 22 years and now here he is in the flesh. The last time they realized they were in his presence was when he

was in the pit beseeching them to not harm him while they ate. Now here he sits on the throne of Egypt! A thousand memories flooded their minds and probably everyone of them remembered the prophecies he made concerning their homage to him.

7. Each of Us Were Troubled When Jesus Revealed Himself to Us.
 - a. If we would think back to the time that Jesus revealed Himself to us, we would realize that we were also troubled. We did not know where to run or hide, but we knew we did not want to continue living under the convicting power of God. It was only when Jesus revealed His great love for us and based upon our acceptance did peace reign. It was only when He beckoned us to draw nigh, *Gen. 45:4*, that fear was replaced with love.

B. HASTEN TO BEAR THE NEWS (9).

1. About a year or so ago as they prepared to leave Egypt they left with heavy hearts because Simeon was held hostage. They had to go back and tell a sad story to family and friends. Their father was not going to like what they must say neither was Mrs. Simeon..
2. This time as they prepare to leave there is a great difference. Joy fills their hearts for they have a story to tell. They have good news to bring to their father and families waiting at home. Joseph is alive! He is the giver of life! He begs for the entire family to come unto him.
3. The Messages And The Messengers.
 - a. Joseph dispatched his brothers with a message. He told them to make haste! Do not delay in getting the word back to the family! There is still five more years of famine. Do not get side tracked and major in the minors. Remember your duty. Go tell the family there is bread in Egypt and it is free!
 - b. Joseph lives.
 - 1) However, and abundance of bread in Egypt was not their most important message. After all those many years of holding on to Benjamin, afraid of what he would have to face, Israel relented and let him go to Egypt so that Simeon could be ransomed. God is never any mans debtor and no sooner had Israel let go then his sons walked boldly to him and floored him with the most important message: Joseph lives! *Gen. 45:26*. Israel almost had a heart attack when he received that word. He did not believe it at first.
 - c. Regard not your stuff.
 - 1) Joseph lives and he awaits the families' arrival. However, there is more to this message than Joseph lives. Once the news reached Pharaoh that Joseph had family Pharaoh instructed them with more items to communicated.
 - 2) Pharaoh also told them one thing that is very prophetic of a lost soul coming to Jesus. The brothers were told that they were to tell their father to not bring your personal belonging (20, your stuff. Just bring yourself. That is all. All the goods of Egypt will be at their disposal. This is a very important part of the message.
 - 3) What is more vivid about their message is Joseph provides the means of getting the family to where he is (21). Oxen, carts, and provision are provided free of charge for the brothers to make the trip there and back. All of this will cost them nothing.
 - 4) The responsibility of the brothers was:
 - a) Deliver the message.
 - b) Convince Israel that Joseph lives.
 - c) Get the family in the wagons.
 - d) Come to Joseph.
4. The Message To The World, *Isa 52:7*.
 - a. All of the above sounds like a great historical narrative comparative to the fairy tale of the "Prince and the Pauper." It means little to us as long as we keep it as a historical event. Once we begin to compare those brothers to us, the story ceases to be historical and suddenly it becomes reality.
 - b. When the women went to the tomb to embalm the body of the Lord, they had quite a shock. They went there with heavy hearts, thinking all was lost. Upon seeing the angel of the Lord and hearing his message, *Mark 16:6*, their depression was replaced with joy.

- c. He is not dead. He is alive. He is not in the grave, *Luke 24:5* *And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?* These women left the tomb in a hurry, *Mat 28:7* *And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead;...28:8* *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.*
 - d. The message was too good to be true that the Messiah lived. Needless to say there were some that did not believe, ***Mark 16:11***, the first time they heard the good news. Israel at first did not believe the good news that Joseph was alive. Those disciples did not believe the word either. A couple of them ran down to the graveyard to see for themselves that the stone was indeed rolled away, the tomb was empty, and the grave clothes were laying in the grave. They saw. They believed. Israel heard and he believed!
5. Our message, ***Rom 10:15***.
- a. Jesus made Himself known to His disciples that He was alive, ***Luke 24:34-40***. Once He had them convinced, He dispatched His brothers to go into the world and tell the message that He was alive. This is what is commonly called the Great Commission. It is so called because it is a great message that Jesus lives, and those commissioned were His brothers, the church.
 - b. Ours is as beautiful message to the world as the sibling of Joseph's was to their family at that time. Our message is one that must be preached and told to everyone. Jesus is alive. Is everyone going to believe the first time they hear? No, they are not. Does that mean we ought not repeat the message? No. We continue to preach the good news to all of whom we come in contact.
 - c. The whole world must know that Jesus is a live. The whole world must be made aware that there is coming a famine and evil times upon the whole face of the earth. The world must be made aware that Jesus alone can provide a haven of rest.
6. Regard not your stuff.
- a. If we can get just one lost soul to believe our message, we continue on with the good news. Just as the family of Joseph was instructed to not bring any of their personal items, even so the repentant one does not need to bring any of their stuff (works of righteousness) either. Just as Joseph supplied all for his family, even so Jesus has done it all for us as well, ***Titus 3:3-7***. All that is required is for one to hear and believe, then go and tell the same message.
7. Come by the means provided.
- a. Joseph supplied his family with oxen, wagons, and provisions for the journey. All they had to do was get in the wagon. This is the same message given unto to us. Jesus provided the means for us to make the journey. He told us that He is the truth the way and the light, no mans come to the Father except through Him. He lead the way into death and conquered death by the resurrection so that we have nothing to fear, ***Rom 14:8***.
 - b. Paul told us that if we died before the Lord's return, there was nothing to worry about for we would be immediately in the presence of the Lord, ***2 Cor 5:8***. He also instructed us that should we live until the Lord's return we would be transported to meet Him in the air, ***1 Th 4:16-17***.
8. His warning (24).
- a. Joseph gave a stern warning to his brothers: Do not fall out by the way. This one verse is a message within itself. Joseph instructed his brothers to remain together. It would seem as if he warned them that you have just become united as a family. Furthermore, now while you are carrying out this commission from me, be sure that you remain established in the way. Do not fall out by the way.
 - b. What he was warning them about was that as long as they remain in the way and followed his instructions there would not be any problems. However, if they begin arguing about past events, such as Joseph and how they treated him, if they begin to what-ifing-the-evnts to every possible situation, or should they engage in a verbal barrage of I-told-you-so games, some of the brothers would fall out of the way and for the remainder of the task, they would be in the way. That is, those that fell out along the way would not be doing anything but hindering the progress of others that remained in the way.
9. Jesus is the way, ***John 14:6***.

- a. Those of us that are united in one church body must remain united in the Way. As long as we are in the Way, we will not fall out by the way. Neither will we be as Esau and establish my way.
- b. That is what is wrong with many church members today. They are not in the Way of the Truth and Life. They have established their values, their own type and schedule of worship. They are by the Way. That is, they show up at church and on the surface seem to take an active part. However, if one should monitor and scrutinize their labors they are in reality in the way of the others who remained steadfast in the way of the Lord. Jesus called this kind of people that stand by the way blind leaders of the blind. He said they blocked the path into heaven, and would not allow anyone else to enter, *Mat 23:13*. They are by the Way and in everyone’s way.
- c. The command has not changed since the days of Joseph. Church members must not fall out along the way. Parents must teach this to their children, preachers and teachers must teach this to their congregations and classes.
- d. If we fall out along the Way, the message that Jesus lives takes a secondary position. The pastor of the congregation must dedicate his time and energy in rounding up sheep that have strayed, trying to move sheep that are stubbornly standing by the way, and the work of the Lord the forward progress has been hindered. Each of us must remain in the Way. He will supply all our needs along the way.

C. It Is Enough (28).

- 1. Once Israel heard all that his sons had to say about Joseph and all that was waiting for him and when the shock wore off, Israel made a great confession when he said, “It is enough.”
- 2. Lost souls must be blessed with the opportunity of hearing the gospel message regarding Jesus. If they would only believe they also would say, “It is enough.”
- 3. Once church members develop the mind set that all that Jesus has provided is enough in this world and the one hereafter, we will be content to do the work and carry the message that He wants delivered.

III. Conclusion and Study Questions - Joseph and Jesus Compared Gen. 45

- A. How he stood in front of Joseph and pleaded for Benjamin, how did Judah manifest attributes of Jesus?

- B. Why is it best for a sinner to confess privately to the Lord their sins, and then profess publicly that they accepted Him as their Saviour? _____
- C. Joseph wanted fellowship with his brothers after he made himself known. How is this a picture of the Lord and His church? _____
- D. What are some things that have the potential to hinder church fellowship?

- E. Why must these hindrances be removed?

- F. What is the message of the church today?

- G. Why is it important for the church members to not fall out by the way?
