

**Beginnings: From Famine of Bread to Feast of Grace**  
Genesis 45:1-47:27

**See a story about forgiveness and reconciliation**

- Joseph's revelation absolutely terrified his brothers (Gen. 45:1-3), but Joseph's response completely disarmed his brothers.
  - He brought them near. (Gen. 45:4)
  - He explained God's sovereignty in all this. (Gen. 45:5-8)
  - He announced provision for them. (Gen. 45:9-11)
  - He showed kindness to them. (Gen. 45:12-15a)
  - He talked with them. (Gen. 45:15b)

*Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!... It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. (Psalm 133:1, 3)*

- Chapter 44 gives the blueprint for seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, and chapter 45 gives the blueprint for extending forgiveness and reconciliation.
  - Is there anyone that you need to forgive?

*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

- Is there anyone with whom you need to be reconciled?

*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. (Romans 12:18)*

**See a story about providence and mission**

- Joseph attributed his brothers' betrayal of him to God's providence. (Gen. 45:5-8)
  - Joseph is not saying that his brothers did nothing wrong.
  - Joseph is saying that God's reasons and causes are ultimate and greater.

*I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than God wishes, that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens, that the chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their courses. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebud is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence the fall of sere leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche. (Spurgeon)*

*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. (Matthew 10:29)*

*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. (Ac 2:22-23)*

- How was Joseph able to process what has happened to him?
  - It was *not right* that his brothers betrayed him—they sinned against him.
  - It was *right* in the sense that God cannot be mistaken—God would use this for good.

*God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart. (Charles Spurgeon)*

### See a story about Jesus and His church

- Genesis 46-47 traces the reunion of Jacob’s family and their relocation to Egypt.
  - The story—from forgiveness to fullness for the family—foreshadows another great story.
  - Jesus taught that all the Scriptures are fulfilled in Him.

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)*

- This story, then, is a roadmap for us—for our redemption and our mission of reconciliation.
  - Why have you been forgiven by Christ?
  - What are you doing with this gospel of reconciliation?

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)*