

Genesis 45:4-46:4

Startling Grace

- * Often, the one “sinned-against” initiates reconciliation ...
- * As Joseph does here in vv. 4-8
- * Yet the “sinner” is not relieved of being proactive as Matt 5:23-24 tells us

Startling Grace

- * The process of reconciliation begins with Joseph's patient explanation to his brothers
- * He enjoins his brothers to "draw near" in v. 4
- * And again reasserts his identity — along with a "proof point" ... **What is it?**

Startling Grace

- ◆ He discloses a detail known only to the 10 and himself — "I am the one you sold"
- * **In addition to proof, what else is accomplished by this declaration?**
- ◆ For the first time their sin is publicly — if not widely — exposed ...

Startling Grace

* Now — who was hearing this for the first time?

- ◆ Benjamin — I'm sure the brothers never shared what really happened to his brother
- ◆ This is part 1 of what will be more public exposure of the brothers "long ago sin"

Startling Grace

* Having "called out their treachery — What comes next?"

- ◆ Joseph's formal forgiveness expressed by way of an explanation
- ◆ He affirms their sin — but acknowledges God's "greater good"

Startling Grace

- * Stage 2 comes in vv. 9-13
- * What is Joseph doing in this stage?
 - ◆ Providing concrete proof of his forgiveness
- * How?
 - ◆ He gives them reassurance

Startling Grace

- * What form does the reassurance take?
 - ◆ Provision and protection for the family ...
 - ◆ Just as his dreams had foretold!!
- * Where have we seen this type of response to sin before?

Startling Grace

- ◆ Turn to Gen 3:15ff — noting vv. 15, 19, 21
- * In vv. 14-15 we see the final stage of reconciliation
- * What do we see in this final stage?
 - ◆ Restored fellowship

READ 45:14-15

Startling Grace

- * The restored fellowship is expressed in two ways — what are they?
 - ◆ Loving embrace - vv. 14-15a
 - ◆ Talk time - v. 15b
- * What do you think they talked about?

Startling Grace

- ◆ Let me assert up front, my answer is “sanctified speculation.” With that said ...
- ◆ I think this may be where the brothers FINALLY confessed, and ...
- ◆ Laid their past animosity to rest

Startling Grace

- * Note now the brothers who hated Joseph so much that they couldn't speak to him on friendly terms — cf. Gen 37:4 [READ]...
- * Are now “chatting away” with Joseph

Sollicitous Bounty

- * Pharaoh is pleased to discover a means to honor and reward Joseph
- * He and his servants are obviously grateful for Joseph's leadership, and ...
- * Pharaoh is quite secure in his reign —
Why would I say this?

Sollicitous Bounty

- ◆ Because bringing Joseph's family could create conflicts of loyalty ...
- * Yet Pharaoh is solicitous to Joseph
- * What does Pharaoh pledge?
 - ◆ An invitation to Joseph's extended household

The “Swag”

- * Emboldened by Pharaoh, Joseph equips the brothers for the return journey
- * His supply falls into two categories — **what are they?**

The “Swag”

- ◆ Actual provision for the journey - v. 21
- ◆ But also a whole lot of SWAG!
- * **Why?**
 - ◆ I suspect to convince his father to come
- * The “swag” would communicate that ...

The “Swag”

- ◆ Joseph was a man of stature in Egypt ...
- ◆ Who had the wherewithal to provide for the family in a foreign land, and ...
- ◆ Maybe — To impress upon Jacob that God’s hand was in the request to “come down”

The “Swag”

- * In other words — Joseph was not “showing-off,” but rather ...
- * He was providing necessary evidence to convince his father to abandon the land God had settled him in

The “Swag”

- * Now — one more thing ...
- * Why does Joseph tell the brothers not to quarrel on the way?
 - ◆ Because they were going to have to “come clean” with Jacob to get him to Egypt ..

The “Swag”

- ◆ So they could have easily been reduced to petty bickering over who was more at fault
- * Boice offers an interesting thought ...
- * He calls this Joseph’s OT equivalent of the New Commandment in John 13:34

The “Swag”

- * “... love one another, even as I have loved you ...”
- * The time for deceit and quarreling is over ...
- * Now its time to unite as a family!

READ 45:25-28

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * Now the 2nd stunning reveal
- * First the brothers learned Joseph is alive in v. 3, and now ...
- * Jacob learns the same in v. 26 and is understandably stunned

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * What is Jacob's first reaction?
 - ◆ Incredulity — and who knows what other attendant emotions
- * So the brothers first approach to convincing their father was their personal testimony — “He is alive”

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * Of which testimony, Jacob is rightly skeptical
- * I'm sure the brothers hoped that their word alone would win the day, and ...
- * That Jacob would be so joyful so as not ask any “pesky” questions

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * But it wasn't — **So what next?**
 - ◆ Plan B: They recounted “ALL the words Joseph had spoken”
- * **So what does this imply?**
 - ◆ They had to repeat v. 4 [GO BACK]

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * **What's the big deal about v. 4?**
 - ◆ They had to admit their duplicity!!!!!!
- * We never get explicit detail of a confession — but I think there was an unavoidable one here ...

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * What “clinches the deal?”
 - ◆ The wagons
- * They were “uniquely Egyptian” and there is no way the brothers could have connived to bring this about, and ...
- * For Jacob this was decisive

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * That said — the cumulative effect of their witness, their full disclosure and the wagons ...
- * Revived Jacob’s spirit and changed his outlook from “gloom” to “hope”

Stunning Reveal - Part 2

- * After which the triumphant ISRAEL (“he who strives with God”) says ...
- * Enough talking — My son Joseph is alive ...
- * Let’s make haste to see him before I die!!

Closing Thoughts

- * I am always struck by the lengths God will pursue to accomplish one “seemingly” small purpose ...
- * Here — It was a worldwide famine to move one family to new quarters!

Closing Thoughts

- * Relate the “Debra” incident ...
- * As we close this chapter, we see the complete fulfillment of Gen 37
- * And the stage is set for the events that will lead us to the book of Exodus

Closing Thoughts

- * For me the big take-away is this ...
- * The pattern that Joseph provides for responding to difficulties — **Which is?**
- * **Keep your eyes firmly fixed on God!**

Genesis 46-50

THE FINAL CHAPTER(S)

Opening Thoughts

- * Gen 46 marks the beginning of the final act of Genesis ...
- ◆ The nation will be resettled in Egypt
- ◆ And — The Patriarchal leadership will reach its end ...

Opening Thoughts

- * Giving way to theocratic leadership
- * Where God will “rule” through His appointed leaders ...
- * The first and foremost of whom will be Moses

Opening Thoughts

- * It also marks the beginning of the end of our time in Genesis 😞
 - ◆ Which has spanned two years, and — Sixty lessons to date
- * It has been a rich time for me and I hope also fruitful for you

Opening Thoughts

- * In fact — I have taught Gen 1-11 multiple times ...
- * But this is the 1st time I've gone through the entire book — so THANK YOU!
- * As we get a little closer to the end, I'll map out what I'm thinking to do next 😊

The Big Picture

TEXT	TITLE
Gen 46-47:12	Resettlement in Egypt
Gen 47:13-26	Joseph's Leadership and Legacy
Gen 47:27-48	Joseph's Portion
Gen 49-50:14	Jacob's Prophetic Blessings
Gen 50:15-26	The Magnanimous Pardon

Genesis 46-47:12

RESETTLEMENT IN EGYPT

Initial Reflections

- * Gen 46 marks an inflection point in the Israel's history
- * They will leave the promised land and embark upon ...
- * What will be a 400 year sojourn

Initial Reflections

- * Yet it is a necessary step to grow the Nation and preserve national integrity
- * And Egypt is the place for this
- * Not only for the obvious reason — that is the famine, but also ...

Initial Reflections

- * For developing ...
 - ◆ A distinct national identity & consciousness
- * And for preventing ...
 - ◆ Being amalgamated into the larger culture that surrounds them

Initial Reflections

- * Egypt is the perfect place because ...
 - ◆ The Egyptians pride and disdain for foreigners — particularly shepherds
 - ◆ Geographic isolation away from the cities
 - ◆ And no possibility of intermarriage — thus maintaining ethnic and religious purity

Initial Reflections

- * Yet on the positive side, they can avail themselves of Egyptian advancements
- * So — all-in-all they could grow and develop their national identity ...

Initial Reflections

- * Awaiting the testing that will arise later from severe persecution, and ...
- * Lead to their redemption and deliverance from Egypt

Structure of the Text

- * Sacrifice and Affirmation - 46:1-4
- * The “Recording” of the Families - vv. 5-27
- * The Emotional Reunion - vv. 28-30
- * Joseph’s “Resettlement” Wisdom - vv. 31-34
- * Resettlement in Goshen - 47:1-12

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * His mind made up, “Israel” sets out for Egypt ...
- * The journey starts from Hebron where the family has been living since their return from Haran

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * And they pause to worship in Beersheba
- * The Beersheba is just over 25 miles from Hebron — thus likely arriving on the 2nd day of their journey

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * Why did Jacob not sacrifice and seek affirmation in Hebron?
 - ◆ Text does not explicitly say, but I can surmise a couple of possibilities
- * First would be that he was overwhelmed with the prospect of seeing Joseph, and ...

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * A strong sense of divine providence owing to ...
 - ◆ The brothers personal testimony
 - ◆ The evidence of Joseph's prominence in Egypt
- * So I don't think it was purely an act of self will on Jacob's part

Sacrifice and Affirmation

* More likely though is this ...

- ◆ Beersheba was, at that time, the Southern extremity of the land of promise
- ◆ So as he was about to leave the place God told him to go ...
- ◆ The momentous character of what he is about to do strikes home with sharp clarity, and ...

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ He realizes that God has not yet spoken directly w/r/t this endeavor, and ...
- ◆ There had been previous “self-willed” pilgrimages to Egypt that ...
- ◆ Had not turned out so well — Remember Abram sojourn to Egypt??

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Abraham's home base after the "offering of Isaac" - Gen 22:19
- ◆ Where the LORD appeared to Isaac to confirm the covenant blessings - Gen 26:23
- ◆ 2nd Covenant with Abimelech — this one with Isaac - Gen 26:26ff

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Isaac's home — from where Jacob departed to Haran after his deception - Gen 28:10
- * So — maybe more than you wanted to think about, but ...
- * Beersheba is a quite reasonable, if not ideal, site for Jacob's worship

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * Jacob offers his sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac — **Why the qualifier?**
 - ◆ Again — no clear textual answer ...
 - ◆ Perhaps “Patriarchal” solidarity
 - ◆ Or — childhood memories of Beersheba

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * Now — We are not told if Jacob made any specific petitions ...
- * But in v. 2 God speaks to Jacob in visions of the night — note the plural ... [visions](#)
- * Which would surely cause Jacob to recall prior patterns and take notice!

Sacrifice and Affirmation

* Based vv. 3-4 what would you surmise might have been on Jacob's mind?

- ◆ Is God with me?
- ◆ Is it "OK" to go to Egypt?
- ◆ Will I ever return?

Sacrifice and Affirmation

* So what does God do first in the vision?

- ◆ He affirms His identity — "I am (the) God"
... The very same one of your father

* What does God do next?

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ He quells any fear that Jacob has about going down to Egypt
- * The nature of the fear is not clear, but it was either ...
- ◆ Fear of leaving the land w/o clear “Divine sanction” (my preference), or ...

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ◆ Fear of what he would encounter in Egypt
- * Then God provides a reason for why he should not be afraid — **What?**
- ◆ Because this is where the “great multitude” promises of the A.C. will be fulfilled!

Sacrifice and Affirmation

* What does God do next?

- ◆ He affirms His presence with Jacob in Egypt, emphatically — “I myself will go down with you,” and ...
- ◆ He emphatically — “I will SURELY” — promises that He will bring him back

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * The “you” in v. 4 is singular — but it carries a “corporate” nuance meaning
- * You — as the head of the nation
- * So it is not just that Jacob’s bones will return to Canaan ... as we learn later

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * But rather God will go down with “the nation of Israel,” and ...
- * He will bring the nation back
- * These are rich promises of reassurance at a time of deep uncertainty

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * **And how does the vision end?**
- ◆ Jacob learns he will die in Egypt ...
- ◆ Along with the sweet assurance that his “lost” son will close his eyes —
- ◆ Instead of dying in sorrow (“bring my gray hair to Sheol in sorrow”) ...

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- ♦ His beloved “lost son,” Joseph will be at his side on his deathbed, and will ...
- ♦ Provide a last loving act — he will close his father’s eyes
- * There are a couple interesting observations we should make b4 leaving this section

Sacrifice and Affirmation

- * What God specifically forbid for Abraham and Isaac ...
- * He now permits for Jacob
- * Which does not make God fickle or inconsistent, rather ...
