

Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here”
- Genesis 50:25

I. A FINAL FORGIVENESS

- Joseph’s brothers, with the death of their father, expect a final reckoning with their brother (Gen. 50:15-18).
- They seek peace either through a lie or the final plea of their father.
- Guilt-laden lives lead to remorse and fear (Ps. 38:4; Prov. 28:1; 2 Cor. 7:10).
- Joseph is brought to tears over the distrust of his brothers and their years of guilt (Gen. 50:17).

II. GOD’S GOOD PURPOSES

- Joseph, in granting forgiveness, shares three truths:
 1. The action of his brothers was intended for evil; therefore, it was sin.
 2. God ordained it and turned it for good.
 3. By his own admission, Joseph is not in God’s place; therefore, he has every reason to forgive (Gen. 50:19; Matt. 18:21-22).
- God does not plan evil for his people. Both discipline and hardship are part of God’s plan to bring good to us (Jer. 29:11; Rom. 5:2-5, 8:28; Heb. 12:3-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7).
- We are never outside of God’s activity in our lives to bring about his good purposes (Gen. 26:24, 28:15; 39:23; Isa. 41:8-10, Matt. 28:20; 1 Thess. 5:6-11).

III. A FUTURE HOPE

- The Genesis narrative ends with Joseph’s body awaiting the promised exodus from Egypt (Gen. 15:13-14, 46:4, 50:24-25).
- During that exodus, Moses takes up his bones and subsequently Joshua buries them in the Promised Land (Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).
- Joseph’s faith is rewarded, even after death. God’s promise was vindicated (Gen. 15:13-14; Heb. 11:22).

KNOW: Joseph demonstrates his godliness in forgiving his brothers, trusting what humans do for evil, God can turn to good. The reality that he is godly is shown in his care for those he forgave. His faith shows through in his trust in God's word for the future in his burial instructions.

DO: Believe the promises of God. Your future is secure.

Suggested Reading:

Suffering is Never for Nothing by Elisabeth Elliot
(LifePoint Adult Library)

The Problem of Pain by C.S. Lewis
(LifePoint Adult Library)

For Children:

Carson Chooses Forgiveness by Tony and Laury Dungee
(LifePoint Kid's Library)

Next Week's Preaching Text: Hebrews 11:22

**Questions/Discovery Points for
Life Groups/Families**

Please Read Genesis 50:15-26

1. Summarize this chapter. What is happening and why?
2. Why does Moses tell us about Joseph's death at the end of this book?
3. As you look back over all of Joseph's story, does it trouble you that God allowed so much "bad" in his life? How about so much "good" for the last 80 years of his life?
4. What can we learn from Joseph's willingness to forgive?
5. What can we learn from Joseph's faith in God's promises?
6. What are your primary takeaways from this series? What have you learned? What have you applied?