

Life of Joseph

Lessons in Humility, Leadership and Forgiveness

The Reveal

- After hearing Judah's penitent plea filled with his love for Jacob, Joseph could no longer control himself [Gen 45:1-2].
 - Joseph demanded privacy because this was a very personal moment and it would not be proper for his servants to see him so emotional.
 - Joseph's weeping was so loud that the servants heard him anyway and told Pharaoh [v. 2].
- Joseph then revealed his true identity to his brothers [Gen 45:3-4].
 - Once he had revealed his identity, he referred to Jacob as "my father" [v. 3].
 - The brothers were unable to respond because they were stunned (לִּהְרֹס, bahal = terrified).
 - Joseph called his brothers near so that they might recognize him [v. 4].
 - Joseph then cited a fact (whom you sold into Egypt) that only he and his brothers could have known [v. 4].
- Joseph spoke about God's providential hand in the events of his life in order to calm his brothers down [Gen 45:5-8].
 - Joseph expressed incredible divine viewpoint in stating that God used the unrighteous acts of the brothers for His own perfect purposes.
 - We learn that the seven-year famine had only been going on for two years [v. 6].
 - Joseph described the position God had graciously allowed him to have in Egypt [v. 8].
 - ✦ father to Pharaoh – his closest advisor
 - ✦ lord of all his household – controller of the treasury
 - ✦ ruler over all the land – his commands are final
- Joseph instructed his brothers to go get Jacob and bring him to Egypt [Gen 45:9-13].
 - Joseph wanted this to be done quickly ("hurry", "do not delay") because he was concerned that his father may not live much longer.
 - He needed the family to be nearby in Egypt so he could provide for them during the remaining five years of the famine [v. 11].
 - He wanted the family to live in the land of Goshen [v. 10] because this was fertile land in the eastern delta region of Egypt.
 - Joseph knew that his brothers (Benjamin, in particular) needed to testify to Jacob that he was still alive and that he could provide for the family.
- Pharaoh instructed Joseph to bring his family to Egypt [Gen 45:16-20].
 - Pharaoh's generosity toward Joseph's family was remarkable considering the typical attitude of the Egyptians toward the Hebrews [Gen 43:32].

- The fact that Pharaoh did this should have removed any and all doubt that Joseph could indeed provide for the family.
- Joseph provided everything needed for the journey to get Jacob [Gen 45:21-24].
 - Once again Joseph bestowed special favor upon his full brother Benjamin [v. 22].
 - He provided super abundantly for Jacob's journey [v. 23] as evidence that he had the means to provide for the family in Egypt.
 - He instructed his brothers not to be afraid (יָרָא, ragaz = tremble) on their journey [v. 24], most likely because he sensed their caution.
- The brothers delivered the incredible news to Jacob [Gen 45:25-28].
 - Jacob did not believe the report at first [v. 26].
 - Once the full account was given and Jacob saw the abundant supply Joseph had provided for the journey to Egypt, Jacob was able to believe the unthinkable [v. 27].
 - Jacob knew that he would see his son Joseph when he got to heaven, but the very thought that he could actually see him before he died was enough to remove any hesitation about making the trip to Egypt [v. 28].