

Lessons in Grace

Intro:

- This is the moment of truth; Joseph and his brothers

I. THE LESSON OF REVELATION – Genesis 45:1-4

- A. Joseph knew who his brothers were, but they did not know who he was.
- B. Joseph could have kept them in the dark.
- C. Joseph chose to deal with his brother on the basis of grace alone.
- D. In this choice, Joseph strongly resembles Jesus Christ.
 - 1. We are separated from God by a sea of sin - Isaiah 59:2
 - 2. We are dead to Him - Ephesians 2:1
 - 3. We are lost and separated from Him - Ephesians. 2:2-3
 - 4. We are lost sinners and deserve Hell for eternity - Romans 6:23
 - 5. But, in His grace, Jesus has chosen to reveal Himself to us!
 - a. He comes to where we are in our sins - Ephesians 2:5
 - b. He shows us our condition - John 16:7-11
 - c. He opens our spiritual eyes and makes us aware of what we need.
 - (1) He points out our sins, V. 4
 - (2) Then, He draws us to Himself.
 - (a) Matthew 11:28
 - (b) John 7:37
- E. Joseph forgets the past and sees them through eyes of perfect love and forgiveness.
- F. That is how the Lord sees us - He deals with us on the basis of grace - Ephesians 2:8-9

II. THE LESSON OF RECONCILIATION – Genesis 45:5-8

- A. Joseph forgave them and promised to bless them.
- B. Joseph is a picture of the Lord and His grace.
 - 1. This is what happened when we came to Jesus by faith.
 - 2. If you are saved, your past has been blotted out - Colossians 2:13-14
 - 3. God has forgiven us, now are to forgive others
 - 4. What do you do when others hurt you?
 - a. We have the example of Joseph. He forgave his brothers.
 - b. We also have example of the Lord Jesus Christ. - Luke 23:34
 - (1) we are to forgive just as we have been forgiven - Ephesians 4:32
 - (2) We are to go the extra mile in our forgiveness of others - Matthew 18:21-22
 - (3) We are to return “*good for evil*” – Matthew 5:43-44
 - 5. If he has allowed it, then He will use it for my good and His glory in His time.

III. THE LESSON OF RESPONSIBILITY – Genesis 45:9-13

- A. Joseph sent them away with the promise of great blessings upon their return.
- B. They were to share the testimony of their experiences in Egypt.
- C. Jesus tells us to tell everyone! What are we to tell them?
 - 1. Our message is simple - John 3:16
 - 2. Our message is powerful – Romans 1:16
 - 3. Our message clear - Act 16:31
 - 4. Our message is life changing – 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - 5. Our message must be told - 1 Corinthians 9:16