

SERMON OUTLINE Genesis 49:29-50:26

You Meant Evil, God Meant Good

JACOB'S LAST REQUEST (49:29-32)

JACOB'S DEATH AND BURIAL (49:33-50:14)

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS (50:15-21)

Joseph Wept Over their Presentation

Joseph Forgave Rather than Harbor Bitterness

Joseph Left Justice Ultimately to God Rather than Seek Vengeance

Joseph Trusted in God's Goodness and Good Plans through his Brothers' Evil

Joseph Affectionately Provided for his Brothers

JOSEPH'S LAST WORDS AND DEATH (50:15-21)

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The main thrust of the passage, and in many ways the main thrust of Genesis, is found in the short dialogue between Joseph and his brothers. In it, the continual, sovereign grace of God is revealed. Indeed, since the Fall in chapter 3, Genesis has been about the sovereign grace of God working for the redemption of His people. What had been more and less subtle throughout the book, is stated here with a kind of explicitness that makes it unmistakable and hope-giving in the highest: God's sovereign grace is always working in all things for the good of His people..

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What was the most significant passage in Genesis for you? What made it so? What is one way God has sanctified you through our time in Genesis?
3. Is your understanding of God such that He is your highest treasure, above everything this world has to offer?
4. Had you ever considered that God requires you to hope in Him, but that hoping in Him as a gift from God?
5. Have you thought much about the relationship between God and suffering/evil? Did this passage help you at all?
6. Have you ever thought about the relationship between God's forgiveness of you when you didn't deserve it, and your need to forgive others when they don't deserve it? Can you see that more clearly in Joseph?
7. Which of the five lessons from Joseph's response to his brothers did you most need to hear? Joseph's hope in God caused him to 1) weep, 2) forgive, 3) leave justice to God, 4) trust in God's goodness, and 5) provide for the very brothers.
8. In what way do you most clearly see the greatness of God in this passage?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

9. Glance back over Genesis and make a list of a few of the things you've learned and a few of the ways you've been changed.
10. Renew your faithful fight to treasure Christ above all and live in a manner worthy of the calling you've received.
11. Pray that God would help you look vertically in your most challenging relationship. Remember the gospel, pray, forgive, entrust justice to God, recall the fact that God is using it for good, and bless them even if they still mean you harm.
12. Share the gospel with someone this week.
13. What is one specific thing you mean to do differently in the power of the Spirit as a result of the things you saw or heard in this text or sermon?

PRAYER POINTS

14. Adoration. Praise God for His sovereign grace. Praise Him for causing all things to work together for good for those who love Him. Praise God for His great glory.
15. Confession. Confess any ways you've thought horizontally instead of vertically in conflict. Confess any bitterness or unforgiveness you are harboring. Confess anything you treasure more than Christ. Confess any ways you've become casual in your faith, confess any ways you've tried to make this earth your home in ways that ought to be reserved for heaven.
16. Thanksgiving. Thank God for forgiving you while you were still a sinner. Thank God for doing more than merely wiping your sin-slate clean. Thank God for revealing His awesome, sovereign grace and character in passages like this one.
17. Supplication. Pray for your unbelieving neighbors to hope in Jesus. Pray for anyone you know that is caught in bitterness or unforgiveness. Pray for Grace Church to treasure Christ above all and to hope wholly in God.