

Joseph's Reconciliation: Reassurance and Comfort

(Genesis 45:1-8, 50:15-21, Romans 5:6-11, and Matthew 5:43-45a)

- I Despite the disfunction of Jacob's family, God was in control.
 - A. Jacob reunited w/Esau but was not fully reconciled w/him.
 - B. Jacob's favoritism toward the sons of Rachel over his other 10 sons led to rivalry and hatred between the brothers.
 - 1. Jacob gave Joseph a richly ornamented coat.
 - 2. w/out tact Joseph shared his dreams of their bowing to him
 - 3. Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers; the brothers angrily wanted to kill Joseph, but threw him into a cistern.
 - 4. while the oldest Reuben was gone, the others decided to go with Judah's idea of selling Joseph to Ishmaelite caravanners.
 - C. As Potiphar's slave, Joseph's falsely accused & sent to prison.
 - 1. He flourished in prison, interpreting dreams w/God's help
 - 2. Interpreted Pharaoh's butler's dream, but butler forgot him
 - 3. Pharaoh had a strange dream & butler remembered Joseph
 - 4. Joseph stood before Pharaoh and correctly interpreted it.
 - D. Impressed by Joseph, Pharaoh made him his right-hand man
- II Forgiveness and reconciliation is what God desires for us all.
 - A. During 7 yrs of plenty Joseph saw to it that grain was stored
 - B. Famine-Jacob sent sons (w/out Benj) to buy Egypt's grain.
 - 1. Feeling angry/hurt Joseph accused his 10 brothers of being spies and threw them in prison for 3 days.
 - 2. Released all but Simeon if they promised to return w/Benj.
 - 3. They returned w/Benjamin, Joseph invited them to dinner, but he tested them by putting his silver cup in Benj's sack.
 - 4. When Benj is blamed/faces consequences, Judah offers to stay behind instead of Benj for the sake of father Jacob.
 - C. Seeing that his brothers have changed, Joseph emotionally reveals himself to them, asks them to bring Jacob to Egypt
 - D. After Jacob dies, brothers are afraid Joseph will punish them so they confess/ask for forgiveness; Joseph reassures them
 - E. Rm 5: Christ died for us sinners to reconcile us w/God; we must not hold grudges, but forgive/be reconciled w/others
 - F. Cared for by Jewish couple, the Weissers, Larry Trapp, a former KKK leader repents/reconciles/is transformed.