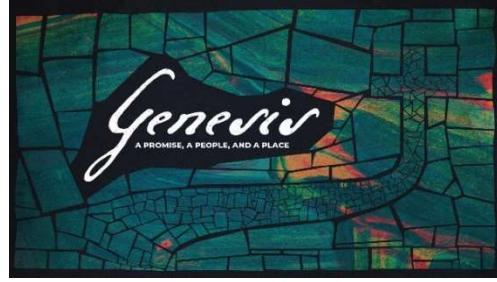


Sermon Discussion Guide

Date: May 5, 2024

Text: Genesis 42:1 – 46:27

Preacher: Jerrod



SUMMARY

Big Idea: A Reconciling God Produces a Reconciling People

Relationships are really hard in life and the family can be the environment of some of the most difficult kinds of relationships (though you could easily add church family, work family, etc..). In this long section of Genesis, we read about reunions and reconciliation. God is at work behind the scenes and above the scenes bringing about some very dramatic redemptive work. Jacob and his sons, all who have thought Joseph has been long gone are forced to deal with a new reality they didn't think existed. Joseph is alive and prospering in Egypt. His interactions with his brothers lead to their repentance, and eventually Joseph reveals his identity. We see Judah's transformation during this time as well, from chapter 38 with Tamar, to now recognizing the full scope of God's work, and leading the brothers to repentance, even offering himself as substitute, to take any blame or consequence on himself for Benjamin. God is making good on his promises to his people in restoring peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro: What is the difference between a reunion and reconciliation? What would you say are needed ingredients for reconciliation to occur?

Overview: Take a moment to highlight the major developments: famine, brothers come to Egypt, Joseph tests his brothers, Judah leads in repentance, Joseph reveals identity, Jacob + family all come to Egypt.

1. Why does Joseph test his brothers? To help answer that, consider the following:
 - a. How does he test them and how does it parallel the brother's guilt for what they did to Joseph? (Note the brother's realization in 42:18-24)
 - b. Joseph demands that Benjamin be brought.
 - i. Why is this a hurdle for Jacob? (see 42:36, 38)
 - ii. How does Rueben's solution (in 42:37) differ from Judah's (43:6-10; 44:16-17, 30-34)?
 - c. What heart posture is revealed in Judah? Why is this significant? (Also note, Judah's intercessory plea in 44:16-34 is the longest speech in Genesis!)
 - i. Why does this prove to be the tipping point to trigger Joseph finally revealing his identity (45:1-3)?
 - d. How is Joseph able to forgive? How does 45:4-8 inform your answer?

Key Takeaways:

- Can you recall a time where you found it difficult to pursue reconciliation? What made it difficult? Were you the offender or the one offended, or both? How did that turn out?
- Why is pain and hurt difficult to heal from? Are you harboring any past hurts? If so, why? Where is your heart hardened and what bitterness do you see resulting?
- Is there anyone you should go to, to pursue reconciliation? What might that look like? What motivations would guide that pursuit?
- Are there opportunities around you where you can enter into disagreements and hurts of others to point them to the gospel and encourage relational restoration?