

ULC Sermon Study Resource

The Gospel According to Joseph // Joseph in Power

Pastor Gabe

August 13, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: If you HAD to give up one of your senses which would it be and why?

Reading: Genesis 42:1-9, Genesis 45:1-9

Outline:

- I. Joseph the Father (42 v.7-9)
 - A. Joseph recognizes his brothers but does not reveal himself to them, instead accusing them of being spies. At this moment, he is teaching his brothers what God taught him about discipline for his sins.
 - B. On the other side of suffering, we often see that God was doing work in us, to shape us more and more into the image of Jesus. Whether it's the circumstances of life or the insight of a friend, so often God uses pain as a way to teach us and form us into who we're made to be in Christ.

Q: *When has suffering in your life shaped you to be more like Jesus?*
- II. Joseph the Brother (45 v.3-5)
 - A. Joseph gives his brother another test before revealing himself and asking about his father, but his brothers could not answer him. At this moment, they were facing the exposure of their own souls and past sin.
 - B. Joseph forgives his brothers and shows them all that God has done through him with his circumstances in Egypt. "When you know the God of grace, you become a person of grace." - Pastor Gabe

Q: *When have you been able to extend grace like Joseph did to his brothers?*
- III. Joseph the Type (45 v.4-5)
 - A. Joseph foreshadows Christ in his example of forgiveness. He was betrayed by his family, sold into slavery, unjustly imprisoned, thrown into a pit, and yet rose to prominence to save the lives of many. These parallel Jesus's life and points to him.
 - B. "That as you stand before Jesus, with whatever the worst thing you've ever done is, and he has complete authority to rule against you. Instead, by the blood of his cross, he extends his grace and goodness to you." -Pastor Gabe

Q: *Have you ever noticed parallels in your own life to Jesus's life?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) Can we be expected to forgive just as Jesus forgave, even though we are not God like Jesus is?
- 2) How can we know when we have the authority to "teach a lesson" in the same way God taught us?
- 3) How can we avoid despair when being confronted with the exposure of our past sins?
- 4) How can we start becoming people of grace?

Suggestion for further study:

- Hebrews 2:17: How does this verse show another parallel between Joseph and Jesus's life?
- Hebrews 12:7-11 Q: How do these verses explain Joseph's behavior in concealing his identity?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, we see the story of Jesus in Joseph's life. Help us to become people of grace in the same way Joseph showed grace to his brothers. Thank you for the forgiveness we find in your Son Jesus, and teach us to be more like him. Amen.