



A Family Comeback

Genesis 37:1-5 (ESV)

Jacob lived in the land of his father's sojournings, in the land of Canaan. ²These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him. ⁵Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

Genesis 45:1-10 (ESV)

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, "Make everyone go out from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

1. Refuse to bow to bitterness. (Genesis 39:1-4; Hebrews 12:15)

- How you respond to adversity reveals who has a handle on you. (Psalm 37:5-9)

2. Choose to be a bondage breaker. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

- There is no comeback without forgiveness.

3. A painful past doesn't disqualify you for God's future. (Genesis 45:4-5)

- No one can hurt you in a way that God cannot heal you. (Joel 2:25)

- Everything that your family is not, God is. (Psalm 68:5-6)

4. Live out of your true identity. (John 1:12; Colossians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9)

- Without a true understanding of your identity in Christ you will put too much pressure on every relationship in your life.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV)

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

5. Focus on the other unfair!

Romans 5:7-8 (ESV)

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.