

Genesis 47:13-31 – Joseph Rescues the People of Egypt

Jesus Saves

Philippians 1:21 (CSB): *For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

Section 1: 47:13-26

¹³But there was no food in the entire region, for the famine was very severe. The land of Egypt and the land of Canaan were exhausted by the famine. ¹⁴Joseph collected all the silver to be found in the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan in exchange for the grain they were purchasing, and he brought the silver to Pharaoh's palace. ¹⁵When the silver from the land of Egypt and the land of Canaan was gone, all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, "Give us food. Why should we die here in front of you? The silver is gone!" ¹⁶But Joseph said, "Give me your livestock. Since the silver is gone, I will give you food in exchange for your livestock." ¹⁷So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and he gave them food in exchange for the horses, the flocks of sheep, the herds of cattle, and the donkeys. That year he provided them with food in exchange for all their livestock. ¹⁸When that year was over, they came the next year and said to him, "We cannot hide from our lord that the silver is gone and that all our livestock belongs to our lord. There is nothing left for our lord except our bodies and our land. ¹⁹Why should we die here in front of you—both us and our land? Buy us and our land in exchange for food. Then we with our land will become Pharaoh's slaves. Give us seed so that we can live and not die, and so that the land won't become desolate." ²⁰In this way, Joseph acquired all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh, because every Egyptian sold his field since the famine was so severe for them. The land became Pharaoh's, ²¹and Joseph made the people servants from one end of Egypt to the other. ²²The only land he did not acquire belonged to the priests, for they had an allowance from Pharaoh. They ate from their allowance that Pharaoh gave them; therefore they did not sell their land. ²³Joseph said to the people, "Understand today that I have acquired you and your land for Pharaoh. Here is seed for you. Sow it in the land. ²⁴At harvest, you are to give a fifth of it to Pharaoh, and four-fifths will be yours as seed for the field and as food for yourselves, your households, and your dependents." ²⁵"You have saved our lives," they said. "We have found favor with our lord and will be Pharaoh's slaves." ²⁶So Joseph made it a law, still in effect today in the land of Egypt, that a fifth of the produce belongs to Pharaoh. Only the priests' land does not belong to Pharaoh.

If people were willing to give all they had to Pharaoh for food and life on this earth. How much more should a person be willing to give us to live for eternity on the new earth? Matthew 16:26 (CSB): *For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life?*

We need to be willing to give all of our life to Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is the one mediator between God and man. No one can come to the Father except through Jesus. John 14:6 (CSB): *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Joseph in this story is a picture of this relationship. No one could gain access to Pharaoh or his possessions without going through Joseph. Likewise, no one can gain access to the Father and His possessions without going through Jesus.

There will be many different views that you will encounter in life. From science, philosophy, education, vaccines, transportation, environment, is it soda, pop or coke, and religion. Within the realm of religion, you will find a wide variety of ideas on how one can be made right with God.

At this time for Joseph, the Egyptians had many false gods that they worshiped. They even worshipped Pharaoh as a god. In the midst of massive pressure to worship false gods, Joseph stays faithful to the one true God. And as if that pressure wasn't enough, he claimed that Pharaoh wasn't the god that deserved worship. Which would have been blasphemous and dangerous.

Remaining faithful to God is easy when life seems easy. But we must prepare our hearts for the difficult times.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Are you willing to give up everything to follow Christ...wherever He may call you?
- ❖ How are you preparing to stand strong in your faith when hard times come?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember and share that Jesus is the only way to our heavenly Father?

Section 2: 47:27-31 - Israel Settles in Goshen

²⁷ Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the region of Goshen. They acquired property in it and became fruitful and very numerous. ²⁸ Now Jacob lived in the land of Egypt 17 years, and his life span was 147 years. ²⁹ When the time approached for him to die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "If I have found favor with you, put your hand under my thigh and promise me that you will deal with me in kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt. ³⁰ When I rest with my ancestors, carry me away from Egypt and bury me in their burial place." Joseph answered, "I will do what you have asked." ³¹ And Jacob said, "Swear to me." So Joseph swore to him. Then Israel bowed in thanks at the head of his bed.

No matter how far Israel finds himself from the promise land...he continues to long for the promise land.

No matter how far we seem to be from eternity...we should long for God's kingdom. Not only long for God's kingdom but with all we are live for God today. Colossians 3:23-24 (CSB): *²³ Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, ²⁴ knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.*

You will go different places; you will experience different things; and you will encounter different people. Life is a journey full of ups and downs. No matter where Israel went, no matter what he experienced and no matter who he encountered...he longed for the promise land.

Today, we should be longing for the promise land. And in that longing, there are two basic characteristics that should describe our lives: (1) we walk closely with the Lord and (2) we share the gospel with everyone.

- (1) The major reason we long for the "promise land" is because God Himself will be there. Wherever you go, walk with the Lord.
- (2) The major reason we share the gospel is because we know what awaits those that have not received the gospel. Wherever we go, we go with the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Are you actively seeking to do everything for the glory of God?
- ❖ How can we walk closely with the Lord?
- ❖ Why should we share the gospel?