

RECONCILED!

Genesis 45:3 (NKJV) Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph."

I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. Patrick Reed... the golfer who won the Masters Golf tournament last weekend... was not my pick to win the tournament... Reed is not one of my favorite golfers.
- b. Now, I am sure... that Patrick Reed could care less what I think.
- c. There are just some things about Reed's demeanor... his attitude... and some of the things that apparently he has done in the past... that I don't particularly care for.
- d. But there was one thing that I learned about Patrick Reed after he won the Masters... that did make me a little sad for him.
- e. Apparently Reed... and his parents... and his sister... have been on bad terms and estranged from one another for years.
- f. Things are so bad in this situation that Reed's parents... have never seen Reed's two children... their own grandchildren.
- g. Personally, I don't know what I would do...if I could not see and be around my grandchildren.
- h. I read that things are so bad between Reed and his parents... that one year at the U.S. Open... when Reed found out that his parents were in the gallery ... at the urging of his wife...he asked the tournament officials to kick his parents off the course ... and they did.
- i. Reed's parents were not making a scene... they just quietly watching their son play golf... but at the insistence of Reed ... they were kicked off the property of the golf course.
- j. I know that what is going on between Reed and his parents... is none of my business.

- k. But as a human being with feelings... here is what I would love to see... I would love for this family to reconcile and come together.
- l. I don't care who is right... I don't care who is wrong... I don't care about the mixture of the two... as a human being who loves my own family... I would love to see this family come together.
- m. And then I would hope that Patrick Reed... who even though he attended the University of Georgia and Augusta State... is a Notre Dame fan... never wins another golf tournament.
- n. I hate to see families torn apart... I hate to see families separated from one another and fighting with one another.
- o. Jacob's family... from whom the nation of Israel... God's chosen people... would come from... was a divided mess in desperate need of reconciliation.
- p. 10 of Jacob's sons had sold their brother Joseph into slavery ... and then they lied to their father Jacob about what happened... and they had kept living and telling that lie for over 25 years.
- q. Jacob's sons were lying to him... Jacob did not really believe their lie ... and all the time Joseph was exiled from his father and family in Egypt... what a mess.
- r. For God's purpose for the nation of Israel to be fulfilled... it was important that Jacob's family reconcile and come together.
- s. Tonight... after everything that has happened in this family... we see how this family finally comes together.
- t. If Patrick Reed's family is to be reconciled... someone is going to have to take the first step... someone is going to have to make it happen... I hope it does.
- u. Reconciliation involves confession... repentance... forgiveness... and grace.

- v. If Jacob's family was going to be reconciled... someone was going to have to make it happen... and that someone was Joseph ... the one who had been so wronged and mistreated by his brothers.
- w. Tonight we look at how reconciliation in Jacob's family... finally happened.

II. THE RETURN TO EGYPT-

- a. In our last lesson... we saw how nine of Joseph's brothers had returned from Egypt to their father in Canaan.
- b. To their surprise... when the men got home and started to unpack their bags... they discovered that the money they had used to purchase grain in Egypt... was in the sacks.
- c. The brothers did not know... that their brother Joseph had done this.
- d. When the brothers got back to Canaan... they told their father everything that had happened in Egypt.
- e. How the man in charge... who was their brother Joseph whom they did not recognize... had demanded that one of the brothers remain behind while the others returned to Canaan with grain for their families.
- f. The brothers then told their father... that the Egyptian official would only release Simeon... the brother who had been left behind... when the brothers returned to Egypt with their younger brother Benjamin who had not made the first trip.
- g. At first... Jacob steadfastly refused to let Benjamin go to Egypt... but over time the burden of having a son in jail... and the fact that it was clear that if his family was going to survive... they needed to buy more grain... Jacob finally gave in and agreed to let Benjamin go to Egypt.

- h. When the brothers arrived in Egypt... they tried to return the money that had been returned to them... but Joseph's chief of staff told them not to worry... he was the one who had returned their money to them ... but he gave them no explanation why he did it.
- i. The brothers then were taken to Joseph's house... where they were reunited with Simeon ... and where to their surprise they were carried to a dining hall... to eat a great feast with their brother Joseph... who was still unknown to them.
- j. The brothers were even more surprised when they were seated at the table in birth order... from oldest to the youngest... and there was no hint of jealousy when Benjamin got the biggest and best portion food.
- k. During all of this...Joseph continued to conceal his identity from his brothers... Joseph was watching and listening... making sure that his brothers had really changed.
- l. Then Joseph gave his brothers one final test... he loaded his brothers up with more grain... but before they left for home... Joseph had his servant hide his divination cup in Benjamin's bag.
- m. After the brothers had left... before they had gone too far ... Joseph sent a detachment of servants and soldiers after them.
- n. When they caught up with his brothers... Joseph's servant accused them of stealing Joseph's cup... the brothers denied it... but they fell apart when the cup was found in Benjamin's bag.
- o. When the brothers were brought back to Joseph... they fell on their faces and begged for mercy ... and when Joseph threatened to keep Benjamin as a slave and send the rest of them home... Judah pleaded with Joseph to keep him instead.
- p. Judah told Joseph... that his father Jacob would literally die if they did not bring Benjamin home.

- q. As Judah was pleading... and his brothers were weeping... Joseph finally became convinced that his brothers were not the rascals they once were... they had truly changed... they were not perfect men ... but they were men God could use.
- r. Finally Joseph... who had fought to hold his emotions in check when he saw his brother Benjamin ... and when he heard his brothers talk about his father... could take it no more.
- s. In one of the most dramatic scenes in the Bible... Joseph cleared the room ... and finally revealed himself to his brothers.
- t. Genesis 45:1-15 (NKJV) “Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed (terrified, stunned) in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. Hurry 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. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine." ' "

And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him."

- u. What grace and mercy Joseph showed his brothers!... Joseph had it in his power to exact revenge on his brothers... he could have given to them what they had given to him...but instead ... he forgave them.
- v. Joseph saw the hand of God in all that had happened to him... that did not excuse what his brothers had done to him...but Joseph left that matter up to his brothers and the hand of God... on his part... he chose to forgive.
- w. One of the ways that Joseph was a pre-figure of Jesus... was he chose to forgive those who persecuted him... like Jesus prayed that those who put Him on the cross would be forgiven.
- x. Joseph's father and family did come to Egypt... they settled in the land of Goshen... they survived the famine... they flourished.
- y. Reconciliation happened... Joseph's brothers had to fess up to their father... they were reconciled... and Joseph and his brothers were reconciled.
- z. After many years... that family of 70... became a nation of millions ... and they were lead out of Egypt by Moses.

III. FINAL LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH-

- a. #1, Life is a journey... not a sprint... Joseph's journey from the pit to the palace took many, many years.

- b. During those years some days were good ... some days were bad ... Joseph's life had its ups and down... but one thing in Joseph's life remained constant... he love God and trusted God every day ... no matter what.
- c. The same is true for us... life is a journey... some days for us will be good... some days will be not so good... our life will have its ups and downs... but one thing in our life should be constant... we should love and trust God the same every day ... no matter what is happening in our life.
- d. #2, For the Christian...character and integrity means everything... without integrity... Joseph would have never been in position to save his family... and multitudes of others... from starvation.
- e. Perhaps Joseph's integrity shines the brightest... in the words that he said to Potiphar's wife when she tried to seduce him.
- f. *Genesis 39:9 (NKJV) "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"*
- g. #3, Family and forgiveness is important to God... Joseph loved his family... warts and all...and he forgave them.
- h. For the Christian... loving our family... warts and all ... and forgiving others is important.
- i. #4, God is in control of history... in Joseph's day...God was in charge of what was happening in Egypt... in Canaan... and in the world.
- j. God is in charge of the world we live in today... His will... will be done ... His plans will be fulfilled... His purposes will be accomplished.
- k. #5, God will take care of His people... through Joseph... God brought His chosen people to Egypt... and He protected them and provided for them in the land of Goshen.

- l. Many years later... God lead His chosen people out of Egypt to the Promised Land.
- m. One of these days... God is going to come for His people in this world ... and He is going to take us to the bright, beautiful and bountiful land that He has prepared for us.
- n. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 assures us that Jesus will deliver those who trust in Him ...from the wrath that is coming on the world.

IV. CONCLUSION-

- a. What a great study this has been!
- b. What a great man of faith Joseph was.
- c. Help us to be like him.