

April 3/4, 2004

Study Questions
Fear or Faith (Part 2): A Study in the Life of Joseph
I Am Joseph
Genesis 45:1-28
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Can you recall a time in your life when someone intended to do you harm, but God used it for good?
2. How do you define grace? Describe a time when you received grace rather than what you deserved.
3. Do you tend to look at life through a positive or negative lens? How does that lens affect your walk of faith?

Bible Study

1. Read Genesis 45:1-28.
2. Chapter 45 is the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers. The "then" in verse 1 refers to *what* from the previous chapter? What in chapter 44 made the reconciliation possible in chapter 45?
3. What was the initial response of the brothers to Joseph's revelation? The word translated "dismayed" in verse 3 means to be terrified (Judges 20:41). Compare Peter's response when he first realized who Jesus was in Luke 5:1-11. What caused both the brothers and Peter to respond as they did?
4. How do Joseph's words in 45:4-15 compare with Paul's words in Romans 8:28?

Does this mean the evil doers are not responsible? Does this mean God's will was for these people to do evil?

What does this mean?

5. What allowed Joseph to rise above the evil done to him by his brothers, to the extent he didn't even want them to be grieved or angry with themselves over what they had done to him?
6. What did the brothers deserve and what were they offered by Joseph and Pharaoh?

How is that a picture of grace?

When you stand before Jesus what do you deserve and what do you receive instead?

7. How does Jacob respond to the good news?

Thinking back on Jacob's life, was he more prone to view life through a negative lens or a positive lens? How has this affected his faith walk?

Do you find it easier to identify with the faith of Abraham, Joseph or Jacob? Why?

Application

1. Is there someone in your life who has hurt you that you need to forgive and extend grace to as Joseph did his brothers? What will be necessary for that to happen? What is preventing this from happening today?

2. As people of faith, how should we respond when people do hurtful things to us?

How can Joseph's example help us rise above the trials in our lives? List 3 things Joseph teaches us about responding to hurtful situations.

3. As sinners, what do we deserve from Christ and what do we receive instead? Make a list of the "best of all the land" we have received in Christ.