

May 15/16, 2004

**Study Questions**  
*Fear or Faith (Part 2): A Study in the Life of Joseph*  
**Faith and Faithfulness**  
**Genesis 50:1-26**  
Pastor Bryan Clark

***Please note: This lesson concludes our study in Genesis and will be the last of the study questions until fall, when we begin a study in the Book of Mark.***

### **Opening Discussion**

In Genesis 3 the serpent used three lies to tempt Adam and Eve into sin. Those three lies were:

- God is not as good as He wants you to believe (“Indeed has God said...”).
- You can be like God, deciding for yourself what is good and evil (no absolutes).
- There are no real consequences to disobedience (“You surely will not die.”).

In what ways do you see evidence of people still believing those same three lies in our culture today?

### **Bible Study**

1. Read Genesis 50:1-14. Compare this text with what is written concerning the death of Abraham (25:7-11), Isaac (35:28), and Joseph (50:25,26).

Why do you think there is so much attention paid to the details of Jacob’s death and burial?

2. Compare what God promised Jacob (Gen. 28:10-17; 35:9-12) and Abraham (12:1-3; 15:1-7) to the scene in 50:1-14.

What gives evidences of the fulfillment of God’s promise, and what fulfillment was still future?

3. Read Genesis 50:15-21. Why do you suppose Joseph’s brothers responded as they did after Jacob died?

What do we learn about our ability to accept the forgiveness of Jesus?

Compare Matthew 18:21-35. What do we learn about God’s forgiveness when we forgive others? If we don’t forgive others, can we really enter into the forgiveness of Jesus? Why or why not?

4. Joseph's statement in 50:20 is the key to Joseph's life. No matter how evil the intentions were against him by his brothers, Potiphar's wife, or the cupbearer, God somehow used it for good. Therefore he could forgive and move on, rather than living with regrets and bitterness.

Compare Joseph's statement with Romans 8:28. Is this true? How would our lives change if we really believed Joseph's words and Paul's words are true?

5. In Genesis 3:1 the serpent questions the goodness of God. In Genesis 50 Joseph affirms the goodness of God. No matter how evil people get, God and His goodness will triumph.

Notice also Joseph's words in 50:25: "God will *surely* take care of you," compared to the words of the serpent in 3:4: "You shall not *surely* die." The serpent surely lied, demonstrated by Jacob and Joseph's deaths. But God will surely triumph over death, demonstrated by Joseph's faith in what was to come.

What is the writer wanting to communicate in Genesis 50 as it relates to what happened in Genesis 3? What is the final message of the Book of Genesis?

6. Read Hebrews 11:8-22. What is the great lesson of faith taught to us in the story of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph?

## **Application**

1. Write down the 3 most important lessons you have learned from Genesis. Then share them with each other.
2. In one sentence, what does it mean to walk by faith?

What will be necessary for you to walk by faith?

3. What is your greatest fear and how does faith address that fear?