

The Greatest Story Never Told: The Story of Joseph

Acts 7:9-16

Introduction:

We studied previously the patriarch Abraham.

- Abraham lived in tents.
- Isaac dug wells in Beersheba.
- Jacob raised sheep in Shechem.
- The 12 sons committed murder and moved to Egypt.

Each generation is less heavenly, more worldly...and life is more painful
–Such is human history.

v 9. “Jealous...” Why?

- He was born of Rachel.
- A good shepherd.
- Who brought to his father a “bad report”
- Designated as firstborn and given the role of distinction.
- But most of all a prophecy of God of his future rule.

v 9b. But God was with him and protected and promoted him.

v 10. Ps. 105:16-24. Joseph was tested.

v 11. 7 years of bounty and followed by 7 years of judgment
... and his brothers come for aid.

Joseph would love to bestow his aid but he cannot until the brothers have come to the place of repentance. Joseph will create the circumstances in which that repentance will take place.

v 12. The first visit... a time of condemnation.

1. A harsh word of condemnation.
2. Prison for 3 days... the awakening of guilt.
3. “bring your younger brother” Joseph has a plan for good.
4. He keeps Simeon to secure their return.
5. He put their money back in their sacks and they are terrified “God is after us!”

6. Time passed... bread was eaten... but the famine continued “time would not fix”

7. Jacob... “go back...”

Judah... “we cannot without Benjamin”

Judah arises as the leader.

v 13. The second visit... a time of repentance

8. Jacob sent gifts to placate the wrath of the mysterious man.

9. But they weren’t needed as they were greeted with grace

10. Joseph seated them according to their birth order!! He knows... and knows with brother is innocent.

11. And Joseph cannot eat with them as they are “unclean”

12. He sends them home but places “the cup of divination” in Benjamin’s saddlebag.

13. Joseph sends his men after the “thieves”

14. Judah says “no way we did this” and “whoever did, you can take his life”

15. Behold it was Benjamin, the other innocent son of Rachel. What will the brothers do?

Joseph recreated the scenario of himself and his brothers 20 years earlier. Will Benjamin be treated as he was?

16. Judah steps up to lay his life down that Benjamin can go free... Repentance has occurred...

17. “I am Joseph”

18. The brothers are silent in guilt.

19. “come closer” repentance brings reconciliation.

- Joseph explains that God used their sin for a greater good.
- He embraced each, assuring them of his forgiveness

20. Then he gave them a commission. “Go back and tell them I am alive. Tell them of my splendor.”

Point: “You people have not done well with saviors”