

Genesis 45 Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - God's Sovereignty & Man's Free Will.

Genesis 45

The conundrum of the sovereignty of God and the free will of man are not in conflict within the infinite mind of God. The events of Joseph's life were orchestrated by God who invisibly works behind the scenes at every step in our path, just as it is written, "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (Prov. 16:9).
Read Psalm 103:19, Proverbs 19:21, Isaiah 46:9-10

☐ Tuesday - Biblical Forgiveness.

Genesis 45:5

Joseph said to his brothers, "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:7). Biblical forgiveness is: [1] *Immediate*. The only way Joseph could have walked so closely with the Lord and served so cheerfully and faithfully, regardless of his circumstances, was through the freedom of forgiveness. Forgiving others frees us from bitterness and anger (Eph. 4:26-27). [2] *Sacrificial*. The price of Joseph's forgiveness was slavery, imprisonment, and more than twenty years of separation from his father – not a small price to pay, but then forgiveness does not come without sacrifice. [3] *Unconditional*. Forgiveness is free in that the forgiver willingly accepts the personal loss or pain. Forgiveness is a matter of grace, not works, and grace does not make demands upon the one who receives it. Read Ephesians 4:31-32

☐ Wednesday - Understanding Trials.

Genesis 45:5

Joseph said to his brothers, "And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life" (Gen. 45:5). "You sold me, but God sent me" – that was Joseph's assessment of his situation. As Christians, we say we believe in God's sovereignty, but our acceptance of the trials in our life reveals the truth. The doctrine of the sovereignty of God means that whatever evil is committed against us has been designed by God to come into our lives for our good and His glory. "Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" (Job 2:10).
Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18

☐ Thursday - God's Infinite Love & Power.

Genesis 45:4-8

In 1981, Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote a New York Times best-selling book entitled *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* which has sold more than four million copies. In his book Kushner declared that God is all loving but not all powerful; that is, God is good, but not sovereign. In Kushner's thoughts, when bad things happen to good people, it is because events are out of God's control. Kushner advised his readers to "learn to love [God] and forgive him despite his limitations." What a sad and irreverent view of God! Christian, the only true and living God, who has revealed Himself in His written Word, is not limited nor does He need our forgiveness, because He is perfect in all of His ways (Deut. 32:4). The truth is, God uses adversity ("bad things") to discipline and sanctify His people.
Read Hebrews 12:3-11

☐ Friday - Nothing is Random or Meaningless.

Genesis 45:8

Joseph said to his brothers, "It was not you who sent me here, but God" (Gen. 45:8). Joseph realized God ruled his life, not good or evil people, and not fortune or chance. And because God was in control, the things that happened in Joseph's life were not meaningless or random. No, rather, all things work together for the Christian's good and God's glory.
Read Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28