

Cherish Our Relationships

Genesis 59:28 – 50:26

- I. _____ Your Family's Heritage – The Gospel Is Our Legacy (49:28-33; 2 Tim 4:7; Phil 1:3-7)**
- II. _____ Those With Heavy Burdens – The Gospel Reflects Compassion (50:1-6; Mt 9:36-38; Col 3:12)**
- III. _____ Over Those Who Left Us – The Gospel Is Our Hope (50:7-10; Ps 42:3; Ps 38:17; 2 Sam 18:33)**
- IV. _____ Those Of Other Cultures – The Gospel Is For All People (50:11-14; Gal 3:28-29)**
- V. _____ Those Who Hurt Us – The Gospel Brings Reconciliation (50:15-21; Eph 4:32)**
- Repentance involves ...
- a request
 - remorse
- Forgiveness involves ...
- Assurance – “do not fear”
 - Humility – “for am I in the place of God?”
 - Realism – “As for you, you meant evil against me,”
 - Faith – “God meant it for good”
 - Perspective – “many people should be kept alive”
- VI. _____ Those Who Survive Us To Trust God – The Gospel Requires Faith (50:22-26; 2 Tim 4:1-5)**

Conclusion: The Gospel Transforms Our Relationships

1. The Gospel transforms our relationship with God
2. The Gospel transforms our relationship with other believers
3. The Gospel transforms our ministry to unbelievers

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- I. Honor Your Family's Heritage – The Gospel Is Our Legacy (49:28-33; 2 Tim 4:7; Phil 1:3-7)**

- II. Support Those With Heavy Burdens – The Gospel Reflects Compassion (50:1-6; Mt 9:36-38; Col 3:12)**

- III. Grieve Over Those Who Left Us – The Gospel Is Our Hope (50:7-10; Ps 42:3; Ps 38:17; 2 Sam 18:33)**

- IV. Respect Those Of Other Cultures – The Gospel Is For All People (50:11-14; Gal 3:28-29)**

- V. Forgive Those Who Hurt Us – The Gospel Brings Reconciliation (50:15-21; Eph 4:32)**

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Introduction:

GENESIS

CHAPTER 50

DESIGNED BY PETER HUI

Jacob's Burial

When the days of mourning had passed... My father made me swear an oath... NOW, I AM DYING

Time taken: 40 DAYS

70 DAYS

EGYPTIANS MOURNED

IF FOUND IN YOUR FAVOR PLEASE PHARAOH

IN THE GRAVE I dig for myself Now let me... GO UP

EMBALMED ISRAEL

THERE YOU SHALL Bury me I will... RETURN

GO UP BURY As he MADE YOU SWEAR

Pharaoh's officials Joseph's family

So they went up ONLY Children Flocks Stayed

THRESHING FLOOR OF ATAD

Beyond the Jordan Mourned there 7 Seven days of mourning

Deep mourning of THE EGYPTIANS

Carried to Canaan Buried in the cave

Which Abraham bought ABEL MIZRAIM AFTER Burying They Returned

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

Joseph's brothers became fearful... Before FATHER DIED

TELL Please FORGIVE

THE GREAT WRONG for TREATING YOU CRUELLY

WE ARE YOUR SLAVES

Don't be Afraid Am I in the Place of God?

You intended HARM But God intended GOOD

What is now being done... Saving of many lives

Don't be Afraid I will Provide for you

Joseph received the message... SERVANTS OF THE YOUR FATHER GOD OF FORGIVE OUR SIN

When Joseph received the message...

The Death of Joseph

lived lived in 110 YEARS

EPHRAIM'S CHILDREN MANASSEH'S CHILDREN

#3 #2 #1 MAKIR

EMBALMED

So Joseph died... 110 YEARS

PLACED IN A COFFIN

Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath... GOD WILL SURELY

Come to Take you To the: We swore to

YOUR AID LAND

GOD WILL SURELY

Come to You must Carry my from

YOUR AID

Introduction:

- Genesis 50 – The End of the Beginning
- Old Testament Virtue – New Testament Transformation

- How the Gospel Transforms Us

I. Honor Your Family's Heritage – The Gospel Is Our Legacy (49:28-33)

49:28 All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him. 29 Then he commanded them and said to them, "I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30 in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. 31 There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife. There they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife, and there I buried Leah— 32 the field and the cave that is in it were bought from the Hittites." 33 When Jacob finished commanding his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last and was gathered to his people.

- Jacob's dying wish was to be buried back in Canaan
- This grave site was also the burial
- Machpelah = "multiple" because of the multiple folks buried there
- Today it's called "Cave of the Patriarchs"
- 1 place for Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & Rebekah, Jacob & Leah
 - Rachel was buried in Bethlehem

Genesis 35:19-20. ¹⁹So Rachel died, and she was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem), ²⁰and Jacob set up a pillar over her tomb. It is the pillar of Rachel's tomb, which is there to this day.

The Gospel is our Legacy

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Philippians 1:3-7 ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

II. Support Those With Heavy Burdens – The Gospel Reflects Compassion (50:1-6)

50:1 Then Joseph fell on his father's face and wept over him and kissed him. 2 And Joseph commanded his servants the physicians to embalm his father. So the physicians embalmed Israel. 3 Forty days were required for it, for that is how many are required for embalming. And the Egyptians wept for him seventy days. 4 And when the days of weeping for him were past, Joseph spoke to the household of Pharaoh, saying, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, please speak in the ears of Pharaoh, saying, 5 'My father made me swear, saying, "I am about to die: in my tomb that I hewed out for myself in the land of Canaan, there shall you bury me." Now therefore, let me please go up and bury my father. Then I will return.' " 6 And Pharaoh answered, "Go up, and bury your father, as he made you swear."

- Jacob died

- Joseph's grief – fell down to his father's
- The Egyptian embalming process was 30-40 days
 - Different than the embalming of Jesus – 100 lbs of spices and linens to eradicate decay smell
 - <https://www.si.edu/spotlight/ancient-egypt/mummies>
- The Egyptians mourned Jacob for 70 days
- This is 2 days short of the length of time they would mourn for Pharaoh (acc. to the Bible Knowledge Commentary)
- Bereavement Leave
 - 60% of private-sector workers get paid time off.
 - Grief-related losses cost U.S. companies as much as \$75 billion annually.
 - Yet the vast majority of employers provide only two to four days of bereavement leave, depending on whether the deceased is a child, spouse, parent or extended family member.

<https://www.shrm.org/hr-today/news/hr-magazine/0917/pages/how-to-support-employees-through-grief-and-loss.aspx>

Christ's Compassion:

Matthew 9:36-38 ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Our Compassion:

Colossians 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, **compassionate** hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience

- "put on" – "clothe yourself" (NIV)

Romans 12:15 "Weep with those weep"

Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Matthew 25:36 "I was sick and you visited Me"

1 John 3:17 "But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?"

James 1:27 "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble."

III. Grieve Over Those Who Left Us – The Gospel Is Our Hope (50:7-10)

⁷So Joseph went up to bury his father. With him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household, and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸as well as all the household of Joseph, his brothers, and his father's household. Only their children, their flocks, and their herds were left in the land of Goshen. ⁹And there went up with him both chariots and

horsemen. It was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, **they lamented there with a very great and grievous lamentation, and he made a mourning for his father seven days.**

- This was quite a funeral procession – Joseph, Pharaoh’s servants, Jewish elders, Egyptian elders, Joseph’s brothers, Jacob’s family (exception of young children and flocks), chariots and horses

Psalm 30:5b Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

A. The Ten Stages Of Grief

(from Granger Westberg, *Good Grief*)

1. Shock
2. Emotional Release/Crying
3. Depression
4. Loneliness and Isolation
5. Panic - about self and future

God Understands Our Grief:

Psalm 42:3 My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, “Where is your God?”

Psalm 38:17 For I am ready to fall, And my sorrow is continually before me.

2 Samuel 18:33 Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: “O my son Absalom—my son, my son Absalom—if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”

6. Guilt Feelings
7. Anger, hostility, resentment
8. Inability to return to usual activities
9. Gradually hope returns
10. Struggle to affirm reality

Grief Work (Norman Wright, *Crisis Counseling*)

- a. Emancipating oneself from the deceased (2 Sam 12:23)
- b. Adjusting to life without the deceased

- c. Making new relationships and attachments

Avoid two extremes:

- a. Block out feelings to pretend everything is fine
- b. Being totally consumed with emotions that nothing else matters

B. Change And Crisis Sequence

(From Norman Wright, *Crisis Counseling*)

	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
Emotional Level	Impact	Withdrawal Confusion	Adjustment	Reconstruction Reconciliation
Time	24-36 hours	Days	Weeks	Months
Response	Fight-Flight	Anger-Fear- Guilt-Rage	Positive Thoughts Begin	Hope
Thought	Numbness - Disorientation	Ambiguity - Uncertainty	Problem Solving	Consolidation Of Problem Solving
Direction	Search for Lost Object	Bargaining Detachment	Search For New Object	Reattachment
Search Behavior	Reminiscence	Perplexed	Focused Exploration	Reality Testing
Guidance Needed	Acceptance Of Feeling	Task-Oriented Direction	Support, Spiritual Insights <i>Important Questions:</i> <i>1. Lord, what have I learned through this experience?</i> <i>2. Lord, how can I grow through this?</i> <i>3. Lord, how can you be glorified through this?</i>	Breakthrough, Reinforce, Hope

IV. Respect Those Of Other Cultures – The Gospel Is For All People (50:11-14)

¹¹ When the inhabitants of the land, **the Canaanites, saw the mourning** on the threshing floor of Atad, **they said, "This is a grievous mourning by the Egyptians."** Therefore the place was named Abel-mizraim; it is beyond the Jordan. ¹² Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

- I was struck by how the Canaanites were impressed by the mourning of the Egyptians
- The Egyptians also respected the Jews and trotted into Canaan to pay respect
- These 2 cultures were enemies – but they respected each other in grief

Galatians 3:28-29. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Ie/ Together for the Gospel conference panel: Martin Luther King Jr's drive was seeing that the Gospel was for all races – not just the whites.

V. Forgive Those Who Hurt Us – The Gospel Brings Reconciliation (50:15-21)

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him."¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, **"Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."** ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, **"Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?"** ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

A. Repentance involves ...

1. a request
2. remorse

B. Forgiveness involves ...

1. **Assurance** – "do not fear"
2. **Humility** – "for am I in the place of God?"
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Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

VI. Exhort Those Who Survive Us To Trust God – The Gospel Requires Faith (50:22-26)

²² So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father's house. Joseph lived 110 years. ²³ And Joseph saw Ephraim's children of the third generation. The children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were counted as Joseph's own. ²⁴ And Joseph said to his brothers, **"I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."** ²⁵ Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here."²⁶ So Joseph died, being 110 years old. They embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

- Jacob and Joseph weren't perfect but they finished well

2 Timothy 4:1-5 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching... ⁵As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

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