

Seeing & Expecting Good From God 2017-02-26

Gen 45:16-28

When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. 17 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, 18 and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.'

19 And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. 20 Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

21 The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. 22 To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. 23 To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. 24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. 26 And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them.

27 But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. 28 And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Gen 45 is a beautiful illustration of God's abundant provision for His people.

- If it comes from God, it must be good, even if it doesn't seem good.
 - 2 Cor. 12:1-10
 - Satan's original strategy with Eve was to get her to doubt the goodness of God.
- Like Jacob, many are looking for, believing & expecting the worst case from God.
 - This is not prosperity teaching but a message encouraging Christians to EXPECT good not evil/difficult from the Lord. Mt 7:9-11

Like Jacob we doubt God's goodness because:

- It seems contrary to everything we believe or experience. Gen 45:25-26
 - For 22 years Jacob believed Joseph was dead.
- It sounds too good to be true. Joseph alive & ruler of Egypt?
 - Undeserved & unearned salvation & abundant blessings.
- We can be perpetual pessimists, more inclined to believe all is against us than God is for us.

- Jacob believed that Joseph and Simeon were dead, he would never see Benjamin or his other sons again, and his family would starve to death.
 - Pessimism is not compatible with faith in our good God.
 - God changed Jacob's doubt/low expectations to faith/hope/high expectations. Jacob heard eyewitness testimony of others (sons), saw wagons & believed. Gen 45:27, Heb 10:23-25, Col 3:16-17
 - Testimony of Lord's faithfulness from other Christians.
 - Life is full of distinctions. Like brothers, learn to accept & live with them. See abundant evidences of Christ's faithfulness/care for you...wagons of provision
 - He meets legitimate needs & desires w/good/perfect gifts. Jam 1:17, Jn 3:27
 - James 1:17 "17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."
 - Coming down is the present participle: gifts flow on us in continuing stream.
 - God constantly giving to YOU good things: food, air breath, sight, family, friends, church family, etc.
 - Like Eve, we are not grateful for what the Lord gives but focus on what He apparently withholds.
 - We feel cheated, deprived of something God should give us.
 - Discontent/ungrateful for Lord's innumerable blessings.
- Israel/Jacob tested to believe goodness & providence of God & to respond in faith.
- Jacob heard eyewitness testimony of others (sons), saw wagons of blessings & his broken spirit immediately revived. Gen 45:27
 - "revived" used = stirring up dying embers almost extinguished.
 - All that Jacob feared going against him suddenly appeared in its true light.
 - God sparing him from physical & spiritual death of Canaan by preparing a place for him in Egypt.
 - Someday you'll see purpose behind difficult things.
 - Until then trust in the Lord's goodness, focus on seeing God's abundant resources that belong to all who trust & love His Son.... includes you!
- Gifts God gives to others & yourself are evidence of His faithfulness, but they're only means of getting us to look beyond to the face of the Giver. 2 Cor 1:20-22, Rom 8:31-32
- All God's promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Eph 1:13-14
 - Holy Spirit is proof that the promises are ours & our inheritance is sure.