



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Pass The Promise Series, Lesson 25

Lesson Title: Joseph's Brothers in Egypt

Take Home Point: God can make good what seems bad.

Warm-Up:

Near the end of my first semester in college, my older brother and I were visiting our parents. There was some mixup regarding how and when I would return to school, so on Sunday my brother left without me. Needless to say I was frustrated and worried. I had Monday off, but now how would I get back? While I was trying to figure that out, my father and I were in the garage checking the oil in his car when he suddenly developed severe chest pains and shortness of breath. My mother couldn't drive, so I sped him to the hospital as quickly as possible where he was diagnosed with a heart attack. What I saw as a bad situation actually worked out for the good.

Read: Genesis 42-47

Observation (What happened?):

What was the first thing the ten brothers thought of when trying to explain to each other why they were in trouble in Egypt?

Whom did Joseph say was really responsible for his being in Egypt?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What kind of attitude did Joseph demonstrate in all his activities involving not only his brothers, but also Pharaoh and other Egyptians?

Why do you think Joseph did not immediately reveal his true identity to his brothers?

Insight:

How human the characters in this account are! We tend to forget that about people in the Bible. Joseph did not know if he would ever see his father and brothers again. He once had a close relationship with his father, and even though God blessed him and he was a great man in Egypt, he missed his father and wasn't willing to trust his brothers right away. Joseph also demonstrated the greatness of a heart that put the past, present, and future in God's hands. His brothers, on the other hand, showed that, even after many years, they were consumed with guilt for their treachery. (And they still bickered among themselves!) Jacob revealed his continuing bitterness about losing Joseph, and still played favorites with Benjamin. These are the people God blessed and used as the family from which our Redeemer Jesus came. If God used humans like this in his wonderful plan, why doubt he works in you and your circumstances?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Think of a time in your life when you recognized God's plan only after you looked back and saw what he had done.

To what situation(s) in your life can you apply this lesson today?