

III. Joseph saves many lives (chapter 41-45)

1. Before the Pharaoh (41:1-36)

- Puzzling dreams and the cup bearer's memory (41:1-13)
- His reaction: He gives

2. Over Egypt (41:37-57)

- Joseph is promoted (37-46):
New status: Office, symbols, name, wife (41:40-45)
- Joseph is blessed
Meaningful service (41:46-49)
Personal blessing (41:50-52)

Joseph's way of healing: Manasseh 3 Dangers
 Ephraim *Philippians 3:13*

Joseph as blessing (57)

The mark of a servant: Willingness

3. Vis-à-vis his brothers (42-45)

The first test:

Their reaction (42:10-11): self-righteousness.

Hope and test: Will they leave Simeon behind?

Fear and guilt (42:21-22), (42:35)

Real reconciliation - Fear and feelings of guilt aren't enough.

The second test:

An unthinkable crime (44:10).

The moment of decision (44:12-13)

No more excuses. Just punishment (44:16). The offer (44:17)

The climax (18-34): Judah asks, begs, pleads for mercy. A new Judah!

An important topic in the Bible: Substitutional suffering.

Real repentance – reconciliation is possible.

Joseph's reaction (1-3): No cover up (4). No revenge.

Why is Joseph able to forgive? 5, 7, 8: God's providence

Reconciliation begins (14-15)

Jacob's reaction (25-28)

Ready for responsibility? Willingness & reconciliation

Take the initiative.

Look actively for reconciliation.

Does God's providence still operate today?

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-31)

God is at work: *He surprises us. He tests us. He loves us.*

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- "Has ever anyone come to you and said, 'I am sorry'? How did that make you feel?"

PERSONAL REFLECTION TIME (during the talk):

- Is there anything I have to admit and to repent, is there a person I have to seek reconciliation with?

QUESTIONS FOR SMALL GROUPS:

1. "If you follow a suffering Messiah, you should not be surprised to suffer as well." Who would you be willing to suffer for? What would you be willing to suffer for?
2. What makes you trust the Lord? Where does he show his providence, trustworthiness, love?

Pray for each other.