Hey! That's Not Fair: Genesis 42-45
Bill Buffington · 08/03/2025

Chapter 42

Genesis 42:7, *As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where do you come from?" he asked. "From the land of Canaan," they replied, "to buy food."*

Genesis 42:24, *He turned away from them and began to weep, but then came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them and bound before their eyes.*

Joseph was able to recognize them, but they didn't recognize him. At some point he was overwhelmed emotionally and had to turn around and weep secretly.

It's not fair that Joseph's brothers had stolen 22 years from him.

He lost 22 years of relationship with his father. He has never been able to meet his younger brother Benjamin. And he has missed 22 years of relationship with them as well.

Maybe like Joseph, you have been robbed of a relationship. This could be through untimely death, through substance abuse, through some calamity, through distance in moving, divorce, even through illness or disability, etc.

Romans 8:28, *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

It's not fair that the one they sinned against is providing for their sustenance.

Romans 5:8, *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

While we are so grateful to receive this from God, it can be difficult for us to provide this for others. To do good for those who have done or are even actively doing us harm.

Matthew 5:44, *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,"*

Chapter 43

Joseph favored Benjamin because he was the only one of the brothers who had not sinned against him, he also was his only full blood brother.

Favor isn't fair.

Ephesians 2:8-9, *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.*

Hebrews 4:16, *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

It is God's unmerited favor towards us that provides salvation for us and allows us an open invite to come to His throne and receive that which we need from Him in confidence.

Chapter 44

Genesis 44:27-30, 27 *"Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife bore me two sons.* ***28*** *One of them went away from me, and I said, "He has surely been torn to pieces." And I have not seen him since.* ***29*** *If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave in misery.'* ***30*** *"So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father, and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy's life,*

It seems that Jacob/Israel loved Joseph because he came from the wife that he loved, Rachel. It would now appear that because he has been bereaved of Joseph, Benjamin is all he has left connected to the wife that he loved who had passed away and his life is bound up in the life of this child. So much so that his sons say if something happens to this kid, my dad will die.

It's not fair that Jacob/Israel had his son who he very much loved, Joseph, taken away from him. Even though we will eventually see this was for God's divine purpose.

John 9:3, *"Neither this man nor his parents sinned,"said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."*

Sometimes the best question is not why is this happening to me God, but rather what are You doing through this God?

Chapter 45

Genesis 45:5, 8*,* ***5*** *And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you…* ***8*** *"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.*

It's not fair that Joseph lost everything in order to be able to give everything to those who took everything from him.

Just like Jesus:

- left heaven
- joined us in humanity
- was mistreated on our behalf
- died for our sins
- So that those who put Him on the cross could be saved

2 Corinthians 5:21, *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Genesis 45:14-15, 14 *Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping.* ***15*** *And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.*

When there is forgiveness and reconciliation, there is a celebration and sweetness.

Acts 3:19, *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord…*

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