

**2017: Week 17**Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017*"God Sent Me"***Genesis 45:5**

<sup>5</sup> Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life " (NASB)<sup>1</sup>.

On Sunday Johnnie preached from **Genesis 45**, taking us to a climactic passage within the Biblical narrative of Joseph. Joseph was imperfect (like all of us!), but we can observe from the text that he feared the Lord and trusted His plans. Joseph had experienced more than his fair share of frustrations, disappointments, and discouragements. From the time he was 17 until he was 30, Joseph had been betrayed by his own family, enslaved, slandered, wrongfully condemned, imprisoned, forgotten, and abandoned. Sounds like a wonderful season of his life, right? We can see from the text that Joseph demonstrated a submissive spirit to the will of God as well as a trusting attitude in God's plans. As we enter the portion of the narrative in **Genesis 45**, we find Joseph at 39 years old. At this time, Joseph had been elevated to a position of power and influence for the past nine years, and the Lord was using him in a mighty way. As you dig into the text this week, give special attention to Joseph's perspective! It is remarkable, and hopefully Joseph's perspective will motivate you in the way that you submit to the Lord. May this passage encourage and remind you that God is in control, that He is good, and that He is trustworthy.

**1. "THE TEXT"****READ Genesis 45:1-9**

- How could Joseph be so gracious to his brothers after what they had done to him?
- What evidence from the text would demonstrate Joseph's *perspective* as being submissive to the Lord and trusting in His plans?

**READ Psalm 105:16-22**

- How might these verses about Joseph indicate that God is in control?
- Why might the Lord "test" His people (**Psalm 105:19**) before He is ready to use them.

**2. "YOU"**

- Is there part of your own will that needs to be more submissive to God's will? If so, how?
- What recent circumstances have made it been difficult for you to believe any of the following: a) that God is in control, b) that God is good, or c) that God is trustworthy?
- What can you do to refocus your perspective, so that you better trust God's plans for your life?

**3. "REMEMBER"**

- **2 Corinthians 12:9-10** <sup>9</sup> "And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup> Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."
- **Philippians 2:13** "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear Lord, sometimes it is hard to understand Your plans. Help me to improve at submitting to Your will. Increase my faith as I trust Your plans. You're the boss! Thank you for loving me. In Jesus' most precious and powerful name, I pray. Amen.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.