

STUDY FORTY

THE JOY OF FORGIVENESS

Genesis 45:1—46:27

Introduction

At last Joseph makes himself known to his brothers. Imagine the scene as they are reunited.

Questions for Discussion

1. Compare the way Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and the way Christ reveals himself to sinners. What are the similarities?
 - 2.a) What can we learn about God from Joseph's speech (45:4-9)?
 - b) In what ways was God saving lives (45:45)? (Note: because Jacob's family is saved Israel could survive as a nation and Christ could be born to bring salvation to all peoples.)
 - 3.a) Can you find any trace of anger, resentment, or bitterness in Joseph's life?

b) How was he able to overcome the temptation take revenge on his brothers (45:8)? (See also Mt. 6:14-15 & Col. 3:13)

c) How can we learn to forgive those who have hurt us in the past?

4. In these and previous chapters Joseph displays much emotion. How can we be more deeply emotional without pretending?

5.a) Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to quarrel (45:24)?

b) What causes quarrelling among followers of Christ? (See Jas. 4:1-3)

c) How can we prevent quarrelling?

6.a) What was Jacob's reaction when he heard the news about Joseph (45:26)?

b) What does this tell us about his character?

c) What was needed to help him believe the message (45:27-28)?

d) What has God given us to help us believe the Good News?

7. Imagine fearful Jacob as he leaves Canaan (46:1-4).

a) What do you think he was afraid of? (See Gen. 12:10-20 & 15:13)

b) What did God do to reassure Jacob?

c) What did God say?

d) How can this be helpful to us?

8. Compare 46:5-6 with 45:17-20.

a) Why did Jacob choose to take all his belongings with him?

b) How can we be *in* the world but not *of* the world?

For Further Thought And Action

What fears are you facing at this time? Commit them to the Lord and meditate on his trustworthiness.

Memory Verse

Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:13