



INTRODUCTION: Joseph’s life can be broken into four categories: Joseph, the beloved son; Joseph, the suffering servant; Joseph, the exalted sovereign; and Joseph, the seeking savior. In the fourth category, we see Joseph, with his wicked, hateful brothers standing before him, the exalted sovereign. Joseph is going to reveal himself, forgive them, restore them and commission them.

I. THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPASSION (GENESIS 45:1-2)

In order for us to be saved, God must first reveal himself to us.

Romans 3:11, “There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”

Joseph had been giving his brothers a hard time (Genesis 42:7-9). Why did he put them through this? Because he loved them (Genesis 42:24). God often puts us through rough times because he loves us. Back in the garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve sinned, God said, “cursed is the ground **for thy sake**;

The Principle of Compassion is this: God’s love is greater than all our sin.

Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

II. THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVICTION (GENESIS 45:3)

No one is truly saved apart from the conviction of their sin. Joseph is bringing them to the point of great conviction (Genesis 45:3).

Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.”

Luke 18:9-14, “⁹ And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹² I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

III. THE PRINCIPLE OF CONVERSION (GENESIS 45:4-8)

God’s compassion towards the lost sinner is designed to bring him to conviction of sin, and that conviction of sin is designed to bring him to conversion.

Ephesians 2:8-10, “⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Joseph is not minimizing their sin; he is maximizing God’s grace.

The principle of conversion is by grace through faith. In Genesis 45:4 we see a decision they had to make. They could come to Joseph believing he had truly forgiven them or they could dwell on their sin against Joseph and not believe him.

Once they came to Joseph, by faith, Joseph then shares with them that he has a plan for their lives (Genesis 45:6-8).

IV. THE PRINCIPLE OF CONFESSION (GENESIS 45:9-13)

Once we have given our hearts to the Lord, it is now our job to confession him before men.

V. THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNION (GENESIS 45:14-15)

The principle of communion is that we have been redeemed with the purpose of fellowship with our King.

VI. THE PRINCIPLE OF COMPENSATION (GENESIS 45:16-23)

God saves us entirely by his grace and then he enriches us and supplies us for service. Joseph never mentions their sins, he has blotted them out, and he introduces them to Pharaoh as his brothers.

Hebrews 2:11, “For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,”

Romans 10:12, “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.”

Matthew 6:33, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Philippians 4:19, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

VII. THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMUNICATION (GENESIS 45:24-28)

A. WE COMMUNICATE BY OUR LOVE (GENESIS 45:24)

John 13:35, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

B. WE COMMUNICATE BY OUR LIPS (GENESIS 45:27)

C. WE COMMUNICATE BY OUR LIVES (GENESIS 45:27-28)