Faith Matters



Daily Devotional - Thursday, July 25, 2024 - The Unveiling

JULY 25TH 2024 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Why is there so much evil and suffering in the world? There are no easy answers. But one truth the Bible consistently affirms is that God can redeem and use evil to accomplish His own purposes. This belief not only enabled Joseph to sustain years of hardship, but it also made it possible for him to reconcile with his brothers.

In Genesis 45, Joseph finally revealed his identity. In this emotional scene, Joseph's first message to his brothers is to offer his own interpretation of what has happened to him. Instead of blaming his brothers,

It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

GENESIS 45:5

Joseph pointed to God's sovereignty. Four times he declared that God is the One who brought him to Egypt. Joseph affirmed, "It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you" (v. 5). Joseph's brothers had acted in envy, greed, and violence. But God was able to use this evil act to accomplish His purpose. This did not absolve the brothers of the great evil they had done. Instead, it demonstrated how God could use even the most dysfunctional and difficult situation for His purpose.

From a broader perspective, God made promises to Abraham and his descendants. One of those promises was that Abraham's offspring would be a blessing to the nations (Gen.

12:1–3). In the Joseph story, we see that promise being partially fulfilled. Joseph was able to save not just his own family from the famine but also the lives of people in Egypt, Canaan, and much of the ancient world (Gen. 41:57). Despite the faithlessness of Joseph's brothers, God was faithful to this promise. On this side of eternity, we do not always get to see the larger picture of what God is doing. But Joseph's story provides hope that God is sovereign. Just as He was with Joseph, He is with His children today.

Go Deeper

What is Joseph's reaction to his brothers? What is the bigger truth in Joseph's story? How does Joseph's story help us gain perspective when we walk through times of suffering or witness great evil?

Pray with Us: Lord, it's sometimes hard for us to believe that You can redeem evil, that evil can be turned to good. Thank You that the story of Joseph reveals it's possible. Give us faith to trust You and eyes to see the bigger picture.

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