

Death and Reconciliation

Genesis 49:29-50:26

Introduction:

Genesis 49:29-50:14 - Jacob's Death - (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27)

Grief - They took death very seriously.
Take time to process death by grieving.

Genesis 50:15-21 - Reconciliation - Joseph had laid the groundwork for reconciliation in Genesis 45. He forgave his brothers.

Precept: This part of the story points to the time between God's work at the cross and when I face up to my sin, confess it and ask God to forgive me.

Reconciliation: Divine and human reconciliation
(Romans 5; 2 Corinthians 5)

Precept: Time does not heal everything but the time it takes to come to reconciliation should not get longer, it should get shorter as we mature and grow in Christ.

Genesis 50:22-26 - Joseph's Death

Conclusion: "Blessing" is a key word in Genesis; (88).

We might see that this reconciliation is captured between two death scenes; almost as if to say that for reconciliation to truly be complete there must be some kind of death and this story seems to point us in that direction.

Is reconciliation first a feeling or is it a willful action? Do I reconcile as Joseph did when I feel like I'm ready to be reconciled or do I act in accordance with the mandate of scripture and anticipate and wait for my feelings to catch up? (Matthew 18:21-35) It may take some time to process all the grief and internal struggle but God wants us to come to reconciliation for his glory.

Precept: Joseph did not forgive his brothers because they deserved it; he forgave them because of his commitment to God. (Genesis 39:9)

Unlike Jacob who needed to be buried in the land of his inheritance; we know better as Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17. This point of view prepares us for death and relieves us of the details that only matter in this life.

When people of faith die they do not die like those without faith, and its hopelessness. They die in the Lord and that should be present in many ways, especially in how we grieve. (1 Thessalonians 4:13b). In death we rest by faith in that hope.