

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. **Israel:** good trip/hard trip. Closing behind us. Watched a country come together for the greater good. [Read: Prov.3 msg]
- B. Hey CM Family, we'd love to be ready to help those in our church and our community with **food** if needed during this challenging time. We thought we'd do a "canned goods" drive like in the old days..... If you would like to help by donating canned goods, as well as other essentials (TP, etc.) you can drop them off at the church during our work hours. We will then be able to give them out to those in need, as well as donating to local food banks. **If our office ends up closing, we will figure out some type of "drop off" but we'll keep you posted on that.** But for now, if you'd like to help by donating to those who may need food, please feel free to drop it off here at church, Mon-Thurs, from 9am-4pm. **Contact Kelly if you have questions.**
- C. **If you need help** (elderly) let us know, need a meal brought. We want to help.
- D. **Finances:** TY last week **online** giving. TY for the **walk in** gifts. **We are still trying to operate with a skeleton staff.** We cut expenses as far as we could. All staff has taken cuts, some have been *temporarily laid off*.
1. **But** I want you to know we are **still trying to help folks** & be here for as long as we're allowed (under 10). **So please be praying for our staff.** **And** as you can continue to be generous through **online giving or Mon-Thurs drop off** at front office. **TY for your sacrifice & faith in that.**
- E. Thank you to **Josh Lazo & Jason Bell** who filled in for me in Genesis.

II. Intro: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

- A. **Lessons:** That **God's will**, not **man's**, is the controlling reality in every event. And God uses **surgical precision** in every situation/circumstance. And that God cares for **the whole man**, not just parts.
- B. Some weeks back we talked about the possibility of Joseph just jumping to chapter 50.
1. Hey guys it's me...tada! But God has been working in all of the brothers and Joseph regarding character.

2. Now Joseph sees the change, as his brothers hearts were humble. He heard them confess their sins, **42:21-23**. It was finally safe to reveal his identity to them.
- a) Earlier, they would not have not been ready. Waited too long, they would've been in total despair.

III. Slide2a **A SUDDEN REVELATION/JOSEPH UNMASKED (1-4)**

- A. (3) They were dismayed - *bahal*, describes a state of terror.
- B. (4) Come near to me please - they obviously were still afraid.
1. Actually, they're *still afraid 17 years later*, in 50:15–21.
 2. In Jesus, we have been *reconciled to God*, and we do not fear judgment.
 - a) God wants us to *draw near to him*. [Joseph, a type of Jesus]
 - b) Hear God whisper to you tonight, *Come near to me please*.
 3. Slide2b This *sudden revelation* is similar to when Jesus returns. And also today when He reveals himself to individuals.
 4. Here, Joseph moves from this terrible lord of Egypt to, *hey, it's me, little Joey*.
 5. It's sudden, sobering (*all the Egyptians heard it*) & it was simple, *I am Joseph*.

IV. Slide3a **THE GREAT FIRST CAUSE (1-15)**

- A. (5) do not be angry with yourselves - don't live in *regret*.
- B. Slide3b (5) **You** sold me... **God** sent me - a classic statement in *providential control*. [also see, *not you...but God* (8).
1. This is the *biblical realism* to see clearly the **2 aspects** of every event.
 2. On one side, *human mishandling*; on the other *the perfect will of God*.
 - a) We must learn to *fix our attention* on the latter.
 - (1) Or, learning how to *ignore secondary causes*. Or that its range of view is filled by **the Great First Cause**.
 - b) Supreme example: (Jesus in Gethsemane) *So Jesus said to Peter, Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?* Jn.18:11

3. It seems that those in the OT knew God was not Safe, but weren't sure if He was Good. We in the NT, know that He is Good, but shaken when He shows Himself as not Safe.

a) Slide4a In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, 2 girls, Susan and Lucy, are getting ready to meet Aslan the lion, who represents Christ. 2 talking animals, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, prepare the children for the encounter. "Ooh," said Susan, "I thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion." "That you will, dearie," said Mrs. Beaver. "And make no mistake, if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

Slide4b "Then isn't he safe?" said Lucy. "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the king, I tell you!"

C. Slide5 In the NT where does human handling & the perfect will of God come together?

In Rom.8:28 NLT *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.* [stars seem stationary. ocean lapping at feet. forest moving]
Or as F.B. Meyer said, *everything is one of the turns of the wheel in the hand of the Great Potter, who is fashioning rough clay into a vessel for the Royal Palace.*

1. Slide6 We know...not guess. It is a fact, not a based on a feeling.

a) It is something we have unshakeable confidence in, despite our circumstances or feelings. James D. G. Dunn

2. Slide7 God causes...not us. He controls everything. Not us, not Mother Nature, not chance, not our government, not even a virus. He controls everything.

a) The Lord is at the helm of history, steering the ship toward his divine purpose.¹

(1) If He wasn't, he would have never been able to prophesy the future in Scripture...but He did & it has a 100% accuracy thus far.

3. Slide8 Everything...not some things. Be honest, do you think Paul meant to say, some things or most things? [not just the big striking events, but a sparrow falling]

¹ Chuck Swindoll, pg.53.

- a) **Now**, this doesn't mean that *everything we do* works together for good. (i.e. marital unfaithfulness, rape, murder) **as if**, we could just **do every sin & then** just blame it on, *hey, it's God's providence*.
- (1) But what He does promise saints, is that when we give them to the Lord, he can turn **even those together for good**.
- (a) **God hates sin...but** once it is committed, **He can use it for good**.
- b) **And**, it's not just the *good* things that come our way.
- (1) Spurgeon asks, **Did you ever hear of a man who got his health by being sick? **That is a Christian**. He gets **rich** by his losses, he **risers** by his falls, he **goes on** by being pushed back, he **lives** by dying, he **grows** by being diminished, & becomes **full** by being emptied. Well, if the **bad things** work for him so much good, what must **His best things** do? If he can sing in a dungeon, how sweetly will he sing in heaven?**
4. **Slide9 Work together for the good...not evil**. Although, **unpleasant** or even **painful** things may come our way.
- a) (i.e.) If an **oncologist** prescribes *cutting out* the tumor, it will be **unpleasant** & even **painful**. **But** if you trust the wisdom & skill of your physician, you will take the treatment knowing it is what is **best for you**.
- b) **So Joseph** was seized by his bro's, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery. Forced to live as a foreigner (in Egypt) about 2 dozen years. He rose to a place of prominence, **but** then was thrown in jail for 2 years on trumped up charges. Got out, & rose again to a place of prominence. Then providence brought his brothers down to Egypt because of a famine. He had grounds & opportunity to destroy his brothers. Instead he was able to respond like only *a providence-minded man* could...& responded **in love!** **But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.** Gen.50:20
- (1) **Joe lived in a constant state of confidence that God was in control!**
5. **Slide10 Of those who love God (God lovers)...not everybody**. This isn't some *superficial optimism* that everything tends to everybody's good in the end.

- a) Work together for good, **not necessarily feel** good; **not necessarily seem** good; and **not necessarily** that they **are** good. **But** it does tell us that they **will work together for His children's good**.
- b) **If a man loves** God, **trusts** God, & **accepts** God. **If a man feels & knows & is convinced** that God is the **all-wise & all loving** Father. **Then he can humbly accept all** that God sends to him.

- D. Slide11 (10) **Goshen** - this likely refers to the N/E region of the Nile delta, near Tanis.
- E. (12) **My mouth that speaks to you** - Joseph speaks to his brothers **in their native language**, having removed all others from the scene. **His ability to speak their language affirms that he is who he claims to be.**

V. Slide12a **COME TO ME...AND I WILL GIVE (16-28)**

- A. Slide12b (20) **Come to me...I will give** - a **welcome** and a **challenge**. As believers we hear the same from God today...**come to Me...I will give**.
 1. This becomes the beginning of a phase of **isolation** for Israel. (**Goshen**)
 2. Where the family of Israel, could **multiply** without losing its **identity**.
 3. This will lead to eventual **bondage and then deliverance**. Which will produce a people that forever after would know itself as **redeemed** as well as **called**.
 4. **Isolation** or **social distancing**...can be used for God's good in our lives? **hmm!**
- B. Slide12c (20) **Have no concern for your goods** - Pharaoh tells them not to worry about transporting their belongings, **only their people**. He's agreed to give them the best of the land, which will far outmatch anything they can bring.
- C. Slide12d (22) **He gave a change of clothes** - this echoes *the beginning of the saga*, when Jacob gave a new garment to Joseph (Gen 37:3).
 1. The Hebrew word used here is not the same word used for Joseph's robe, **but** the connection is evident.
- D. **Benjamin** - Joseph favors Benjamin, his full-blood brother from their mother, Rachel.
- E. Slide12e (24) **Do not quarrel on the way** - good parting advice. **Guard well your tempers and their testimony**.

- F. (25-28) Although Jacob would have likely asked, there is **no indication** here or elsewhere that Joseph or his brothers ever discussed with Jacob the story of **how** Joseph ended up in Egypt.
- G. **Slide12f** (27) **The spirit of their father Jacob revived** - **Joy** soon replaces his initial sense of shock.