

Week 03
013/352

Transforming Daily
“... to preserve life ...”
Genesis 45:5

The final chapter to the story of Joseph and his brothers comes to a head. Joseph tricks his brothers one more time to return to him. This time the consequences directly affect Benjamin. The plot involved a silver cup that Joseph had planted in Benjamin's sack. Once the brothers were released to return home, thinking everything was fine, Joseph's steward tracked them down and revealed to them the cup in Benjamin's sack. The steward took the brothers back to Joseph where they once again bowed to him in humility and service (according to Joseph's earlier dream). Judah cried out in defense of his brother Benjamin still not knowing that he was pleading with one brother for another brother's life.

Joseph can't take it any longer. He dismisses everyone but his brothers. He cried out so loud that all of Egypt could hear him. Then, to his brother's dismay, he revealed his identity to them and tells them the whole story. They are united and once again by and for the purpose of God.

In Joseph's explanation to his brothers, he tells them not to feel guilty any longer about what they did to him. He tells them that God allowed all of it to be done that His will would be accomplished for all concerned regarding the severe famine in the land that would last five years more, seven years altogether. Further, the purpose of God for his coming to Egypt was to preserve life.

God in the person of Jesus Christ came to earth that He might preserve life, that He might give life and more abundantly. It was His heavenly Father's will that He lay down His life that whosoever wills might receive the bread of life to deliver them from their severe spiritual famine that ultimately leads to death, hell, and the grave. Those who trust Christ, according to the promise of God, receive eternal life, never to experience the second death.

Have you recognized the severe spiritual famine of depravity in the land? Do you recognize it in your own life? Do you believe the promise of God's Word? Have you confessed your sins before God and exercised trust in Christ Jesus in order to receive the free gift of eternal life? If not, today is the day of salvation. If so, know that many have not done so and need to hear the gospel, perhaps from you, in order to preserve life.