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Four “Jolts” of Encouragement for Modern Day “Josephs” (Genesis 46-47)

A Story About a Maker of Miniatures (“In the Reign of Harad IV” by Steven Millhauser)

The End of the Joseph Story as a Scriptural “Miniature”

Picking Up the Story

ESV **Genesis 45:4** So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God.

NIV **Genesis 50:19** But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...."

Genesis 46-47: Four Major “Jolts” of Encouragement

1. **JOLT 1: You are not _____ in going the “extra mile” in ministry (46:31-47:2).**

ESV **Genesis 46:33** When Pharaoh calls you and says, 'What is your occupation?' You shall say to him...

ESV **Genesis 47:2** And from among his brothers he took five men and presented them to Pharaoh.

2. **JOLT 2: You are not _____ in believing and behaving like the “blessing” of King Jesus is meant for *everyone* (47:7, 10).**

ESV **Genesis 47:7** Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

ESV **Genesis 47:10** And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

3. JOLT 3: You are not _____ in clinging to Christ when life has felt consistently crushing (47:8-10).

ESV **Genesis 47:8** And Pharaoh said to Jacob, "How many are the days of the years of your life?"⁹ And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my sojourning are 130 years. Few and evil (רע) have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their sojourning."¹⁰ And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from the presence of Pharaoh.

רע (pronounced "raw") † 2. *bad, unpleasant, giving pain, unhappiness, misery*

ESV **2 Timothy 4:18** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

4. JOLT 4: [Number three notwithstanding!] You are not _____ if God's goodness seems *entirely* gone (47:8-9).

Digging Deeper

This week's passages:

Monday: Genesis 37

Tuesday: Genesis 39

Wednesday: Genesis 40-41

Thursday: Genesis 42-43

Friday: Genesis 44-45

Weekend: Genesis 46-47:12

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of how the passage relates to Joseph and/or to you. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. **Read** the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. **Record** or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. **Reflect** and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. **Respond** by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word ("*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*" James 1:22).