

Date: June 14, 2026

Title: Providence and Fatherhood

Passage: Genesis 45:16-28

Summary:

I. Record every sin smothered by love (v.16)

II. Record every good thing. (v.17-20)

III. Record every gracious gift. (v.21-23)

IV. Record every peaceful word. (v.24)

V. Record every spiritual revival. (v. 25-27)

VI. Record every clarifying moment. (v.28)

Key Truths:

- We practice the providence of God by recording and treasuring things that have occurred for future use.
- Every writing of providence is to believe that God is ruling every aspect of your life today for His purposes as well as your future.
- Be in the practice of recording what God has been doing or is doing in your life so as to strengthen your faith in Him.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How did Joseph cover over his brothers' sins? How is that an example of forgiveness and love we can emulate?
- How can renewing your mind with God's Word prevent you from believing a false gospel or wrong perception of who God is?
- Describe times in the past your love for God was rekindled towards greater devotion and intimacy with Him.
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Context of Passage:

Joseph is now 39 years old

- he was previously sold as a slave when he was 17 years old.

Jacob

- When Joseph was sold as a slave and his brothers deceitfully said he had died, Jacob was in deep grief and had a negative view of life.

Genesis 37:33-35

And he identified it and said, "It is my son's robe. A fierce animal has devoured him. Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, "No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning." Thus his father wept for him.

Genesis 42:36

And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me."

Passage:

Genesis 45:16-28

When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"

The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes.

To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, "Do not quarrel on the way."

So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Question: Is all Scripture practical and should be put to use in our lives?

- If so, then how should we put God's providence into practice?
 - We record and treasure it for future use.
 - Every writing of providence is to believe that God is ruling every aspect of your life today as well as your future.

SIX EXHORTATIONS:

I. RECORD AND TREASURE EVERY SIN SMOTHERED BY LOVE. (v.16)

Genesis 45:16

When the report was heard in Pharaoh's house, "Joseph's brothers have come," it pleased Pharaoh and his servants.

- Previously, Joseph never told anyone who sold him to Egypt.
 - When he revealed himself to his brothers, he instructed everyone to leave.

Proverbs 10

Love covers all transgressions

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

- Love does not gather sympathizers of wrongs done.
- Compare: Jesus never recounts a single failure of his disciples. He doesn't mention Judas' betrayal or Peter's denials.
- Here: Joseph chooses to love his brothers and protects their identity and guilt from others.

Genesis 45:8

So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

- Reflects Joseph's relationship with Pharaoh.
 - *"He has made me a father to Pharaoh"*
 - Joseph may be older than Pharaoh. Pharaoh looks up to Joseph as a counselor and provider.
- Question: How would Pharaoh have reacted if he knew Joseph's brothers sold Joseph to slavery?
 - We know that Pharaoh was subject to violent tendencies as he had previously quickly jailed his cupbearer and baker with the latter killed.
 - Here, Pharaoh would have likely killed his brothers out of vengeance. Then there would not have been any nation of Israel.
- Joseph's treatment of his brothers is a beautiful example of love smothering over sins.

II. RECORD EVERY GOOD THING. (v.17-20)

Genesis 45:17-20

And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan, and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land.' And you, Joseph, are commanded to say, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little

ones and for your wives, and bring your father, and come. Have no concern for your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”

God's covenant to Abraham

Genesis 12:2-3

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- Here, God provides his blessing of Israel through the Egyptians.
- Likewise, our God is a good God to has steadfast love for His beloved.

Question: If God is so good and wants to spread His goodness, what does God require of us?

- The chief thing that Christ requires of you is a good stomach for all His goodness and gracious provision.
 - Our relationship with our good God is one out of blessing and overwhelming provision.
- Today: You belong to Jesus. In Christ, you are blessed with more than you can imagine.
 - Question: Do you believe this or instead believe some false gospel?

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

1 Corinthians 2:9

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

III. RECORD EVERY GRACIOUS GIFT. (v.21-23)

Genesis 45:21-23

The sons of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the command of Pharaoh, and gave them provisions for the journey. To each and all of them he gave a change of clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five changes of clothes. To his father he sent as follows: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey.

Why did Joseph send a caravan that would in turn be brought back to Egypt?

- Overwhelm Jacob showing proof of the goodness that God has blessed him.

- Joseph's brothers left their home seeking any type of sustenance but return with an overwhelming amount of provision (silver, clothes, donkeys).
- This removes any doubt of what has occurred.
- This is a picture of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - We come to God with nothing to bring but our sin.
 - In Christ, we are overwhelmed with all God's provision and blessing in Christ.
- The road to reconciliation is through blessing.

IV. RECORD EVERY PEACEFUL WORD. (v.24)

Genesis 45:24

Then he sent his brothers away, and as they departed, he said to them, “Do not quarrel on the way.”

Why the command?

- Previously, the brothers were quarreling among themselves.

Genesis 42:22-23

And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.” They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them.

- Here, Joseph wanted to assure them that all had been forgiven.

Genesis 50:15

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.”

- 17 years later, Joseph's brothers still were fearful that Joseph was still bitter.

Genesis 50:19-21

But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

- Joseph responded with peaceful words to assure reconciliation has occurred.

V. RECORD EVERY SPIRITUAL REVIVAL. (v. 25-27)

Genesis 45:25-27

So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. And they told him, “Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt.” And his heart

became numb, for he did not believe them. But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them.

- Jacob initially heard the news but initially disbelieved the truth that Joseph was alive. ("his heart became numb")
 - Joseph quickly accepted the lie that Joseph had died but was slow to accept the actual truth that Joseph was indeed alive.
- Likewise: Do we assume bad news or tend to disbelieve actual truths?
 - Question: Have you found yourself as a cynic over the years due to circumstances or life experiences?
 - Consider: Which of God's promises have you found disappointing?
 - Truth: we are actual ambassadors of Christ Jesus. We are people of good news. Our identity, fate, and destiny is grounded in good news of Jesus alone.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them,

- Jacob finds out the truth about all that happened with Joseph here.

and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived.

- This was the day when Jacob became full of life and faith again.
- Likewise, record when God has rekindled your appetite for all good things.

VI. RECORD EVERY CLARIFYING MOMENT. (v.28)

Genesis 45:28

And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

- Previously, Jacob had despaired under the grief of the loss of his son.
- Now, he is now Israel with faith and hope.

- It is only until Jacob/Israel obeys and goes is when his faith has renewed.

Genesis 46:2-4

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes.”

Genesis 48:15

And [Israel] blessed Joseph and said,
“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,