Genesis 31:7 - 50:26

(part 2)

GABC Foundations -- Questions for Application

1) Consider Joseph as a foreshadowing of the Messiah for the young nation of Israel. As a group, list the different ways you observe Joseph prefiguring the Christ.

2) Joseph points to God's sovereignty over his circumstances when says to his brothers "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Gen 50:20). How do you see the ultimate truth of those words in the crucifixion of Jesus? How should that truth influence us as we observe and experience evil in our lives?

3) Joseph not only gives mercy to his brothers who sinned against him, he gives them grace (Gen 45:4-15, 50:15-21). What is the difference between mercy and grace? Have you ever feared that God will punish you for your sins, even after He has shown you grace in Christ? (like Joseph's brothers in 50:15-21) How does Jesus speak a far better word to you than Joseph? (hint: see 50:19)

4) In Genesis 41:56-57 we see Joseph begin to fulfill God's promise to bless all the nations of the earth through Abraham's offspring (Gen 12:3). How does Joseph's provision for the nations prefigure Jesus? How are you called to participate in its ongoing fulfilment?

5) Joseph repeatedly gives credit and glory to God (Gen 39:9, 40:8, 41:16,25,51, 45:5-9, 50:19-20). Jesus gave glory to God the Father (John 5:19, 6:38, 8:50, 14:28,31) and he commands us to do the same (Matt 5:16). Are there any ways you are tempted to take credit for a good thing when it ought to be given to God?