

J A C O B

13. The Sorrows of the Godly

Genesis 35:16-29; 37:31-35; 38:1-18;
42:36-38; 43:1-14; 45:9, 25-28

Be patient - God hasn't finished with me yet _____

- “Except Job, no-one in the OT experienced more sorrow than Jacob”

1. We are not exempt from Sorrow

- “If you live long enough you will suffer” – DA Carson
- Gen 35-45 – 6 deaths, 3 suspected deaths, 4 cases of serious sin, 3 statements of grief, 1 instance of joy
- Too often we expect Heaven on earth – we should expect sorrow
- Great experiences of God do not exempt you from suffering
- “In this world you will have trouble” – John 16:33

2. We must not exacerbate sorrow

- 2 categories of sorrow here
 - Sorrows coming from living in a broken world & amongst sinful people
 - Sorrows that we bring on ourselves or aggravate
- Not all sorrow is a result of individual sin
- But sometimes it is – Jacob brings trouble on himself:
 - Favouritism – led to brothers’ hatred of Joseph
 - Failure to discipline & lead family – led to sons thinking they could get away with sin
 - Failure to fight indwelling sin – led to sons copying their father
 - Forgetting God – Gen 42:36
 - Left God out of the equation – and lost hope
 - Always makes things seem worse
 - Do we let problems govern our hope, or our relationship to God?

3. We must keep trusting our Heavenly Father

- Jacob’s faith rallies – Gen 43:11-14
- He brings God back in the equation – “May God Almighty grant you mercy”
 - Sees hope – thinks Simeon and Benjamin may return
 - “If I am bereaved, I am bereaved” – not fatalism, but trust in God’s sovereignty
- Hints of it earlier in Gen 35:18
 - Renames son “Son of my right hand” = Son of Blessing instead of Son of Sorrows
 - Convinced that even in sorrow God will bring blessing
- If we are trusting God we can meet sorrow and find the message God intends for us
- Are you convinced of your Father’s love and wisdom?
- We can trust him because the Son of God’s right hand became the Son of Sorrows so that we could be accepted by God

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4. Our trust in God will be richly rewarded

- Jacob trusts God with his sons, and sees them return alive – Gen 45:25
- And God does far more than Jacob could have hoped for
- Those who trust will find the sadness coming untrue
- Those who trust will see God do more than they could ever ask or imagine
- We will be richly rewarded, not because of us, but because of the infinite price paid for us
- God has sent some of the goods of ‘Egypt’ to us, we need to say with Jacob “I am convinced” – and keep trusting until He brings us to himself.