

GOOD-BYES ARE NOT SO GOOD – GENESIS 45

SERIES: *WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS*

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." ⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." *Revelation 21:3-5 (NIV)*

1. GOOD-BYES ARE NOT SO GOOD

²⁵ "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ... ³⁶ When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship. *Acts 20:25, 36-38 (NIV)*

2. JACOB AND JOSEPH LIVED UNDER THE PAIN OF GOOD-BYE

³³ He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces." ³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him. *Genesis 37:33-35 (NIV)*

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. *Genesis 45:3 (NIV)*

²⁰ Never mind about your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours."
²¹ So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. ²² To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes. ²³ And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. ²⁴ Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!" *Genesis 45:20-24 (NIV)*

3. JACOB'S BOYS RETURNED TO CANAAN IN STYLE

- **Good News: Joseph is alive!**

²⁵ So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan.

²⁶ They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. *Genesis 45:25-26 (NIV)*

- **From "Jacob" to "Israel"**

²⁷ But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. ²⁸ And Israel said, "I'm convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." *Genesis 45:27-28 (NIV)*

4. ISRAEL GOES TO EGYPT

- **Change is something many people fear and resist, but it is necessary for emotional and spiritual growth.**

¹ So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. ² And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied. ³ "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there." *Genesis 46:1-3 (NIV)*

²⁸ Now Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to get directions to Goshen. When they arrived in the region of Goshen, ²⁹ Joseph had his chariot made ready and went to Goshen to meet his father Israel. As soon as Joseph appeared before him, he threw his arms around his father and wept for a long time. *Genesis 46:28-29 (NIV)*

5. A FAMILY REUNION WITH NO GOOD-BYES

¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words. *1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV)*

²⁷ Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Hebrews 9:27-28 (NIV)

⁷ Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. *Revelation 1:7 (NIV)*