

No, You Can't Pt. 4

Genesis 50:20-21, Sunday AM, March 5, 2023

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 50:7–21 So Joseph went up to bury his father, and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his household and all the elders of the land of Egypt, ⁸ and all the household of Joseph and his brothers and his father's household; they left only their little ones and their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. ⁹ There also went up with him both chariots and horsemen; and it was a very great company. ¹⁰ When they came to the threshing floor of Atad, which is beyond the Jordan, they lamented there with a very great and sorrowful lamentation; and he observed seven days mourning for his father. ¹¹ Now when the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites, saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "This is a grievous mourning for the Egyptians." Therefore it was named Abel-mizraim, which is beyond the Jordan. ¹² Thus his sons did for him as he had charged them; ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field for a burial site from Ephron the Hittite. ¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, he and his brothers, and all who had gone up with him to bury his father. ¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, "Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place?" ²⁰ "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." ²¹ "So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

So we return to Joseph. I look forward to it, but it's rough because it is hard enough to remember week after week let alone the 4th part of sermon. I will recap, but I encourage you to listen to the other 3 parts again as you are able. We are talking about death, pressure, the upheaval of normal. We are talking about physical limits during these times—tired. We are talking about emotional effects—stressed because of lack of schedule and things stirred up that had a place. What comes out of you during these times? Do you feel in survival mode? Endure—just get through it, try not to set off alarms with others so they leave you alone? Shut down, “whatever” mode—it doesn't matter? Or do you let it all out to yourself, to anyone around, and to God? We've been talking about how we determine reality in youth group. Reality is larger than you and whatever circumstances you experience or the emotions that accompany them. Reality is transcendent but it is also personal because there is no reality apart from God. Do you want reality? Start here. God IS. God is Righteous. God RULES. God Relates. God Loves. God has made a way for you to relate to Him. THIS stabilizes and lifts our hearts from the natural to the eternal. Sing this reality and our basis for hope and life.

*Hymn #26: A Mighty Fortress

You meant it for evil, God meant it for good. We are talking about a world beneath actions/happenings. We are talking about intent. Goals. We are talking about values and cultivating them. We are talking about what must move out of the way for these values to flourish and grow. What IS in your heart? What ARE your true motivations? What about God's heart and motivations? If you don't deal with these questions carefully and correctly, you are NOT dealing with reality. I need help with this because I don't know how to do this correctly and can't do it fully alone because I can't see even my own heart as it is, let alone God's. God, show me myself. Don't let me live as a victim of others—where I'm constantly aware of their unkind treatment and wrong actions, where I feel alone and left out, where I compare my life with others and use this to determine reality. God, draw me to Yourself, to gaze at You because seeing and relating to you is the only way to define all the rest of my life. Show me myself, but don't do it without showing me something of You and Your pure intentions.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Not in Me

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D Choir: Lord Let Me Serve

Scripture: Isaiah 41:1–20 ¹Coastlands, listen to Me in silence, And let the peoples gain new strength; Let them come forward, then let them speak; Let us come together for judgment. ²Who has aroused one from the east Whom He calls in righteousness to His feet? He delivers up nations before him And subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, As the wind-driven chaff with his bow. ³He pursues them, passing on in safety, By a way he had not been traversing with his feet. ⁴Who has performed and accomplished it, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.' ⁵The coastlands have seen and are afraid; The ends of the earth tremble; They have drawn near and have come. ⁶Each one helps his neighbor And says to his brother, "Be strong!" ⁷So the craftsman encourages the smelter, And he who smooths metal with the hammer encourages him who beats the anvil, Saying of the soldering, "It is good"; And he fastens it with nails, So that it will not totter. ⁸But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend, ⁹You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. ¹⁰'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.' ¹¹'Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; Those who contended with you will be as nothing and will perish. ¹²'You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent. ¹³'For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.' ¹⁴'Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,' declares the LORD, "and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁵'Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; You will thresh the mountains and pulverize them, And will make the hills like chaff. ¹⁶'You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, And the storm will scatter them; But you will rejoice in the LORD, You will glory in the Holy One of Israel. ¹⁷'The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, And their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the LORD, will answer them Myself, As the God of Israel I will not forsake them. ¹⁸'I will open rivers on the bare heights And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water And the dry land fountains of water. ¹⁹'I will put the cedar in the wilderness, The acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert Together with the box tree and the cypress, ²⁰That they may see and recognize, And consider and gain insight as well, That the hand of the LORD has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Offering: *Doxology:

Coastlands LISTEN to ME in silence. And what do we get if we do this? **New strength.** Chapter divisions added, so do you remember the verse immediately preceding this one? o chapter divisions—verse right before? **Yet those who WAIT for/hope in the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.** Why must we wait? Because we are impatient. Our mind, heart, voice, actions are busy/racing. I can't wait, I tried. I need an answer right now! Remember the end of chapter 40? I can't wait/hope in God, because He is not here, He is not aware, He is not able or willing to help me. Does God care? Remember the response? **"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable."** Then why hasn't He acted? He IS acting! Tie yourself to the eternal God who is in and over history and see what did for His disobedient and unfaithful people. **He delivers up nations before him and subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, as the wind-driven chaff with his bow. But you, Israel, My My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend, ⁹ You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. ¹⁰ 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'** You don't deserve this treatment, but God's faithful providence works powerfully in behalf of those who are His. You can be His through Christ, receiving pardon AND the righteousness of Christ to make you worthy of fellowship with Him. Worship God's power, providence, love, and care.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Who is Like Our God

*Hymn #53: The New Twenty-Third

Message: No, You Can't Pt. 4 Genesis 50:20-21 *Hymn #46: God Leads Us Along Prayer