The Story of Joseph!

February 20, 2022 – Genesis 45:4-8
Pastor Jon Pickens

What Does the Story of Joseph Really Teach Us?

1. God is **sovereign** and His plan is not **hindered** by sinful people.

2. God uses the **trials** we face in this life for His good **purposes**.

    a. Purposes from this account:
        i. To preserve **life**.

        ii. To preserve a **remnant** of Israelites.

    b. How do trials serve God's purposes in our lives?

        i. Trials remind us of just how **broken** this world is and cause us to **long** for something just and beautiful.

        ii. Trials lead us to look on God as our only **hope** and **salvation**.

        iii. Trials **test** the genuineness of our faith.

3. Embracing God's sovereignty helps us to **love** one another.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is focusing on the divine aspect of the story much greater than focusing on the human aspect of the story?
2. How has God used trials and difficulties in your life for good?
3. Pastor Jon talked about several reasons God allows us to face trials. Did any of them resonate with you? If so, which one(s) and why?
4. How does trusting in the sovereignty of God help us to love one another?
5. What are some ways we can remind ourselves that God is sovereign over our trials?
6. What is a take-away for you from the message or this passage?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be in the room behind the Welcome Center after the service.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Consider joining an elective. They meet most Sundays at 11am.
4. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

February 2022
Two Year Bible Reading Plan

Week 1 *Starting Feb. 7*	Week 2 *Starting Feb. 14*	Week 3 *Starting Feb. 21*	Week 4 *Starting Feb. 28*
Day 1: Gen. 49-50	Day 1: Exod. 9-10	Day 1: Exod. 18-19	Day 1: Exod. 28
Day 2: Exod. 1-3	Day 2: Exod. 11-12	Day 2: Exod. 20-21	Day 2: Exod. 29
Day 3: Exod. 4	Day 3: Exod. 13	Day 3: Exod. 22-23	Day 3: Exod. 30-31
Day 4: Exod. 5-7	Day 4: Exod. 14-15	Day 4: Exod. 24-25	Day 4: Exod. 32
Day 5: Exod. 8	Day 5: Exod. 16-17	Day 5: Exod. 26-27	Day 5: Exod. 33

9 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 10 but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. 11 You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.
-Deut. 5:9-11

What was your big take-a-way from the message this morning?