

Jesus And His Brethren

Introduction; Meeting people is sometimes scary.

- A. We do not know what someone new is like.
 - 1. We may not like them or they may not like us.
 - 2. They may be very different from how we are. They may be hard to put up with if it is a great difference.
 - 3. Some people are quiet and easy-going. Others are loud and pushy. Sometimes these do not get along.
- B. Sometimes we see someone we have not seen in a long time.
 - 1. Again we may wonder what it will be like. How have they changed? Will we still get along?
 - 2. Many times we still get along. Sometimes though we have both changed too much to renew our friendship.
 - 3. This is even a problem with family. We may not have seen some family member in a long time or we may have never been close to them. When we see them we may or may not get along.
 - 4. This is especially true with a family member whom we had trouble with. Can we forgive and forget?
- C. We see an example of this problem in scripture.
 - 1. In Genesis 43 to 45 a young man, Joseph, is sold into slavery by ten of his brothers. He spends over 20 years in Egypt away from his family.
 - 2. When they finally meet there are questions on both sides. They all wonder how they will get along.
 - 3. This event parallels our meeting Jesus Christ. We will use this event today to see our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- D. Today we will consider, “**Jesus and His Brethren.**”

I. Joseph knew his brethren.

A. Joseph is sold into slavery when he is about 17 years old —Gen 37:2.

- 1. There he prospers in the household of Potiphar. He does very well and rises to being over all Potiphar owns —Gen 39. God is with him and he works hard and is honest.
- 2. Despite his integrity and hard work he is sent to prison because of Potiphar’s wife. However God blesses him in prison and he become head of the prison.
- 3. Because he interprets the dreams of Pharaoh’s chief baker and butler he is called on to interpret Pharaoh’s dream. He does so and become second in power in Egypt —Gen 40, 41.
- 4. Joseph is 30 years old when he stands before Pharaoh —Gen 41:46. He rules over Egypt during the 7 years of prosperity that he had prophesied.
- 5. He also reigns during the 7 years of famine. It is in the second year of the famine that he reveals himself to his brothers —Gen 45:6 & 11. He is now about 39 years old. His family has not seen him for over 20 years.

B. In Genesis 45 Joseph reveals himself to his brethren.

- 1. Joseph did not reveal himself to his brothers at first. He knows them but they do not know him. The first time they came to Egypt to buy food he kept one of them to make sure they came back —Gen 42.
- 2. We are not sure as to why Joseph does not reveal himself. He may be afraid they still hate him. He longs to see his full brother, Benjamin, and his father, Jacob.
- 3. The things he has done terrify his brothers and they realize that these things may have happened because of what they had done to Joseph over 20 years ago —Gen 42:18-24.
- 4. **Genesis 45:1-2;** Finally Joseph can stand it no longer. He puts the Egyptians out of the room so he can reveal himself to his brothers privately. His sorrow and joy is very loud.
- 5. **Vs 3-4;** He tells them who he is. He tells them something no one else knows but them. He tells them he is the brother whom they sold over 20 years ago. This piece of personal knowledge lets them know he is telling the truth.
- 6. **Vs 5-8;** He acknowledges that his being sold into slavery was the will of God. He does his best to assure them that he is not angry but has accepted the will of God to take care of his family.

7. Joseph's brothers did not know him. He revealed himself to them privately. They are afraid at first. He must then let them get to know him so they can know the joy he can bring them.

C. Many consider Joseph a type of Jesus Christ.

1. Joseph is very prominent in the book of Genesis. He is mentioned 131 times and his history covers chapters 30 to 50. The house of Israel is often called his house —see Amos 5:6, 15.
2. Abraham's name is mentioned more but often in the context of God's promise and not in a historical context. Abraham's history is from chapters 12 to 25.
3. We know of Abraham's sins and David's sins but none are told of Joseph —he does have some. He is a very godly man. He is not mentioned often in the N.T. Yet he is a hero of faith in Hebrews 11:22.
4. Whether he is a type of Christ or not we can still see parallels in the things we have considered so far.

D. Joseph saved his family from the famine.

II. We must meet Jesus privately.

A. We are called the brethren of Christ.

1. *Heb 2:17-18 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*
2. As Jesus' brethren we treated Him as Joseph's brothers did him. We rejected Jesus and crucified Him.
3. As Joseph was a great potentate in Egypt, Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords in heaven. He is far away but wants to reveal Himself to us.

B. Jesus wants us to know Him despite what we did to Him.

1. Jesus knows men. Yet men do not really know Him. He knows men intimately. Yet men ignorantly put Him to death.
2. *John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, 25 and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.*
3. *Acts 3:17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers."*
4. *Acts 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent..."*
5. As with Joseph Jesus must reveal Himself. We cannot know Him on our own. And knowing Him is a bit scary. He is the ruler of heaven and earth and we are sinners who killed Him.

C. Jesus will reveal Himself privately to us.

1. This does not mean Jesus will reveal Himself through a night vision or a dream. It means we must individually hear and obey the gospel. We must personally come to Christ. No one can do it for us.
2. We are not saved as a family, as a nation, as a group nor as a race. Not everyone in the church is saved. Salvation is personal and individual. We must respond to the Gospel.
3. *Acts 2:40-41 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*
4. *Phil 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;*
5. We do not look to the church, to the preacher nor to anyone but Jesus Christ for salvation. We don't come to church to hear the preacher but to hear Christ. If we come because of the preacher we will be disappointed.
6. *Matt 6:6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."*
7. Jesus is revealed to us in the privacy of our hearts when we hear the Gospel and believe it. We repent of our sins and are baptized into Christ to be saved —Rom 6:3-7.
8. This does not deny the need for public meetings and worship and preaching —Act 20:7. It simply means we must individually choose to follow Jesus Christ.

D. Jesus had done His part to come to us. What about us?

III. Meeting Jesus is fearful at first.

A. Joseph's brothers were afraid of him at first.

1. There are many reasons some men are afraid of Jesus Christ. There is the power and authority He has. There is the sin in our lives. There is our lack of knowing Him and who He is.
2. Joseph had great power in Egypt. He had power over his brothers. They had rejected him and sold him into slavery. They did not know what he really thought of them.

B. We should have a fear of Christ when we first meet Him.

1. We should fear who He is. He has all power and authority. And we have all sinned against Him. We should fear greatly.
2. *1 Tim 6:15-16 ...which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*
3. *Rom 3:23 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
4. *2 Tim 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*
5. We see several examples of those who were fearful when confronted with Jesus Christ. In His personal ministry and after men came to know Him and were afraid.
6. *Luke 7:16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."*
7. *Acts 9:5-9 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." 6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." 7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank,*
8. *Acts 2:36-38 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
9. If we are honest and admit our sins against God, it is a fearful thing to face Jesus. We do not face Him personally in this life but in the word of God. However we know we will stand before him personally in the end.

C. Hebrews 10:31; *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

IV. Continuing with Jesus brings joy.

A. While there is fear in the presence of Jesus, there is more trouble away from Him.

1. Jesus identifies Himself to us as Joseph did to his brethren. He lets us know who He is. In His divine word He tells us all our sins and shortcomings.
2. *Acts 9:4-5 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" 5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads."*
3. *1 Tim 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*
4. Many do not want to be in the Lord's presence and worship Him and be a part of His church. Some are afraid, some are ignorant and some are proud and wicked. Staying away however will lead to great punishment
5. *Luke 13:24-28 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand*

outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' 26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' 27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out."

6. *Acts 13:26 "Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent."*
7. It is better to face our sins and the Lord than to stay away and be lost.

B. Just as Joseph spoke words of comfort and forgiveness to his brothers, so does Jesus.

1. *Matt 11:28-30 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*
2. Jesus calls us to Him. He does not call out for justice but for forgiveness. He does not demand vengeance but peace. He speaks words of comfort. He did this even from the cross.
3. *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*
4. *Luke 23:33-34 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*
5. *Luke 23:39-43 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." 43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*
6. Jesus promises heaven for those who serve Him in this life. He promises to help us through the trials and problems of life too.
7. Just as Joseph offered to protect his brethren through the remaining years of famine, Jesus Christ offers to watch over and help us through the remainder of this life.

- C. *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Conclusion: Coming to God is scary.

- A. However we can only save our soul by coming to Him.

1. We come to Jesus Christ in faith, repentance and baptism. We believe in Him and what He did for us. We repent of our sins and turn to the Lord. We are then buried with Him in baptism to become a child of God.
2. *Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."*

- B. If we can help anyone in their service to Jesus Christ, please let us.