

**Genesis 47: 13-26; “Indeed I Have Bought You”, Sermon # 113 in the series –  
“Beginnings”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020,  
in the Morning Worship Service.**

I want to set forth to you today from this passage of Scripture, certain valuable lessons about what it means for a person to come to know the Lord Jesus and to follow Him. I will give to you lessons from the past and lessons for the present. A nation, like the nation of Egypt was composed of many individuals, and so some of the lessons that I will give to you will concern individuals and their being saved. And then some of the lessons that I will give you will concern nations. And today we want to consider the future salvation of the nation of Egypt. We will look at both, salvation of individuals and salvation of nations as the Lord enables us. When God intends to save people either individually, or in great numbers, there are certain things which Christ Himself does, and then there are certain things that He asks you to do, which if you will follow His instructions, you will be able to persevere in faith, and you will be assured that you will be saved eternally.

So I want to pose to you this question to you now – What are the things which Joseph did to save the lives of these people in Egypt in that day, which Christ also does to save His elect people in our day? And also, what are the things that Joseph asked for, from those who came to him, compared with the things which our Lord Jesus asks for now? I am thinking of the things that He asks for by way of obedience, from those who have been given eternal life. I think that there are 4 things which Christ does, or which He asks for, which are found here as phrases in our text.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Let’s look at the phrase – “And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt”.** (verses 13-15)

This passage of Scripture is speaking to us about the people of the land of Egypt having enough bread to eat during the last several years of the seven year famine which was foretold by Joseph. These were long and difficult years for the people of Egypt. They were brought into great fear of losing their lives because of the severity of the famine. But when they went to Joseph, they found that their lives would be preserved. And indeed, their lives were made much more pleasant, during this terrible famine, because of the compassion of Pharaoh, and the wisdom and compassion of Joseph. As the people said to Joseph in verse 25, “You have saved our lives”. The passage is once again typical, in terms of the lessons that I want to bring to you. I want to show you the importance and significance of your giving yourself and everything that you own to Jesus Christ, in order that you might find eternal life. The people who lived in Egypt, which is a picture of the world, they did not understand at first; that their repeatedly coming to Joseph was the way that their lives would be saved physically. The same will be true for you if you repeatedly come to Jesus for life.

We have seen this throughout our study of Joseph with his brothers, and also I believe, in the conversion of the Pharaoh himself through Joseph’s witness, and the confirming witness of Joseph’s brothers and his father. But now we are looking at the physical salvation of a nation; even Egypt itself. And so we find this phrase in verse 14 – “Joseph gathered up all the money in the land of Egypt.” Now, we need to understand that Joseph did this, not because he was a selfish hoarding man, but because he was a man who was filled with the wisdom of God. The text says that he “brought the money into Pharaoh’s house”. The money which Joseph gathered, obviously came to him because of the sale of the grain which he stored up. The things that keep us in life are well worth our paying for, our food and our possessions. Especially our daily bread.

Sometimes we forget that it is God who “gives us this day our daily bread”. Many people do not even stop before a meal and pray and thank God for the provision which He gives them each day. Some will say to me – Well, why pray? I worked hard to be able to buy this food. I owe it all to myself. Other people work hard also to prepare things for me to buy. God has nothing to do with it. Ah no, my friend. How deceived you are. Who is it that gave you your life and your breath and your strength? Who is it who gave you your job, and the measure of wealth that you have? It is God and no one else. He gives you the food to sustain your body so that you can go to work, and so

that you can continue to pay for your food, and address many other concerns in your life. It is a very good thing to work hard to pay for the things that you purchase in this life, even though we know that it is all given to us by God; it all comes from His hand.

Isn't it interesting that it says here, that in the time of famine, that all the money failed? In other words, all of the best laid preparations of men were not enough to avail in this desperate time. All of the most hoarded resources came to an end. But Joseph had gathered up all the money. It is significant that everyone in the time of trouble, had to come to Joseph, if they wanted to live. Their own resources; the money which they had saved to keep themselves alive, was not going to carry them through this famine. But the people of Egypt knew that they could come to Joseph. People all over the then known world knew that Joseph was their savior; He had stored up grain like the sand on the seashore. They knew that he was a man of wisdom and compassion.

Similarly, our Lord Jesus Christ is your heavenly Joseph. He is wise beyond measure. He has grace beyond measure which He has stored up for those who come to Him. You may believe that it is your money, you may believe that it is your wise use of that money that will get you through the most difficult times of your life, but sometimes God will so order things that you might come to see that it is not your wisdom, your cleverness, or your ability to do provide for yourself that will see you through. Let me say that diligence is the precious possession of a man. Frugality is a great virtue in the use of money. Savings accounts and a wise stewardship of what has been entrusted to you are very, very good things for you to pursue. Often they will do us in good stead in the lean times, and in the times of national financial difficulty. But, I must add, only to the extent that God is pleased to bless them. If God Almighty sees that you are trusting in those things rather than looking to Him for blessing and every good thing, then He knows that He will have to teach you wisdom, by His bringing judgments like this famine.

Ecclesiastes 9: 11 says – "I returned and saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to men of understanding, nor favor to men of skill; but time and chance happen to them all." God is glorified in the famine as well as in the time of His bringing the greatest prosperity. Self-sufficiency is not a good quality if it leads you to live your life independent from God. God is glorified in your dependence in things both earthly and spiritual. God will, for the sake of His elect, so order things in their lives that they will come to know this in every area of their lives. And most especially in the financial area. The things that I am speaking to you about are of great importance to God as well as to you. He is looking at the way that you live, and He is asking the question – Does this person, do these people, seek Me more, trust in Me more, obey Me more, in the times when I bless them abundantly with a good job and the ability to make money? Or do they take it all for granted? Are they unthankful and complaining, and do they live for themselves and not My glory? Those are questions which God asks people and nations.

God strategically made these powerful things happen in Joseph's day. He sovereignly raised Joseph up to be the one who everyone would have to come to, in order that they might find bread to eat to keep themselves and their families alive. God the Father has strategically appointed His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be the One and Only Savior of the World. Everyone who would find eternal life for their soul must come to Jesus to be rescued from the severe famine of their soul, their cravings to find the meaning of life and to know God. "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8: 36 and 37) Even in terms of a person's earthly physical life, Satan says to God concerning Job – "Yes, skin for skin!" "All that a man has he will give for his life."

But Jesus says – "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will find it." (Mark 8: 35) God will give life to all who will come to Jesus Christ. He is of greater worth than all the World. He who does not gather with Him scatters, in regard to their life. But all the money in the whole world will fail to keep your soul alive if you fail to come to Him. The people of Egypt had already used up all of their money to buy bread for the 5<sup>th</sup>

year of the famine, and now they were coming into the 6<sup>th</sup> year. They had held out that long. But now, there was no way that they could pay any more. From the greatest of them to the least of them, the money finally ran out. It was all gathered in by Joseph and it was given to Pharaoh.

Will you not understand that everything that you have earned, everything that you have stored up and gathered, will eventually come back to Jesus Christ? Anything of value, anything that will last, it will all come back to Him. Everything else will come to an end and will be lost. It will all come to an end and be destroyed forever. The whole meaning of life is summed up in Jesus Christ. All things are yours if you are Christ's. The sooner that you come to realize this, the better. Money will fail in the end to keep you alive physically or spiritually. But the riches of Christ will never come to an end, and He will continue to lavish them upon all who will trust in Him for eternal life.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – Let's think about the phrase – “Give your livestock and I will give you bread.”**

In verse 14, it says that “all the Egyptians came to Joseph and said, ‘Give us bread, for why should we die in your presence?’” “For the money has failed.” “Then Joseph said, ‘Give your livestock, and I will give you bread for your livestock, if the money is gone.’” “So they brought their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for all their livestock that year.” These verses show us the progression in the severity of the famine. It brought the people to Joseph because they knew that Joseph was a man of compassion. Notice that they say – “Why should we die in your presence”? It is as much as if they were saying – Surely, Joseph, you cannot stand by and watch us perish. We know, Joseph, that you have the ability to relieve our problem. Surely you will not let us die without giving us what we need. This, I believe, was a statement of faith on their part. And Joseph did not turn them away.

Even so, you should understand that the Lord Jesus is full of compassion, spiritually, in this same way. He says in John 6: 37 – “All that the Father has given me shall come to me, and the one who comes to Me, I shall never cast out.” He does not stand by and watch the soul die of the one who comes to Him looking for grace. But you will notice that Joseph did require something of value to be given in exchange for his giving them bread. Even though they had no money to be able to pay Joseph, yet the value of the bread that was being given to them, must be paid for, with something. Joseph did not simply give them a handout. While they still had something that they could give him in exchange for the food, he expected it. He required that they give him their cattle, something which had value in the exchange. It was all that they really had left of their livelihood and their business.

You might say to me – Why didn't Joseph just simply give them bread and forget about taking anything more from them? Well the reason was, that it would not be right for him to do so. It would be a form of stealing for them to simply expect Joseph and the government to give them something for nothing. And this should speak volumes to us about the unrighteousness of the people expecting that the government should always bail them out, when they come into a financial crisis. Listen to me now; God has ordained that everything of value in this life has a cost, which He expects you to pay for, if you would have it. There is a cost to provide it to you, and a cost which must be borne by you in order that these goods and services be continued to you, in an on-going sense. This is why God has ordained work, and why money and the concept of private property exists. God expects a person to be responsible to pay for what they need, and what they use.

This kind of knowledge and understanding must be taught to each generation of people coming up. We all need to understand that the government is indeed responsible to see that the people that it helps through welfare programs, do not simply become leeches feeding upon the kindness of a regular handout. The people who are given aid or help, should be paying for what they obtain and use of goods and services, and they must be taught that God expects them all to work and to pay for what they can pay for, unless they are physically unable to do so. They must be taught by us Christians, that this is the right attitude to cultivate; to be free from dependence upon the government for their well-being and livelihood. Indeed, it would be irresponsible of the

government to teach anyone to do otherwise. It is irresponsible for the needy person not to try to be independent of Government aid. They must be taught to seek to pay for what they use.

This policy of Joseph's can be verified by the words of 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 9 and 10. In that place, Paul exhorts all who are brethren to love one another. He tells them to excel in that love and to increase in it all the more. But he then goes on to say in verses 11 and 12 that you should also "aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands," as the Apostle and others had told them. He told them these things so that "they would walk properly toward those who are outside, and that they may lack nothing". Now think with me about 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians Chapter 3, verse 6 in relation to this. Here Paul says – "But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us." "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us."

You see, this is the way that a Christian is to act. And this is how he is to teach others, how they should act. He is to diligently work and to provide for his own needs, and the needs of his family. He is not to think that the Government has to give him something for nothing. These people were forced to go to Joseph, who was representing the Government. He was representing Pharaoh, and they did not have money to pay for the grain. But they did have cattle, and so Joseph asked them for those. He was righteous to do so. And yet, all the while, he was desiring to do them good. He had not become weary in doing them good. His attitude was right toward those who were needy. Thus it is also with the Lord Jesus Christ. He saves those who come to Him, freely by His grace. He never wearies of doing you good. He knows that you are entirely dependent upon Him, but He is also expecting that you will be responsible to pay all of your earthly debts, and to practice righteousness. He will give you spiritual bread in the process, to feed and nourish your soul, in your journey through this life. But He would have you to see that there is a cost to being the disciple of the Lord. It is, that you will give Him all that you have, in terms of your possessions.

You remember the Rich Young Ruler who came to Jesus and said to Him, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" And Jesus told him to keep the commandments. And he asked which ones. And Jesus mentioned the five commandments from the second table of the Law. You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, and honor your father and your mother. And the young man said to Him – "All these things I have kept from my youth." "What do I still lack?" And Jesus said to him – "If you want to be perfect, go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me." "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions." This hesitancy on his part, you see, was due to the fact that he was breaking the tenth commandment. He was covetous and wanted to hold on to everything that he had.

Jesus brought it home to him in a very practical way. This man was covetous and self-seeking in his motivation for keeping all the commandments that he did keep outwardly. In his heart he refused to believe that he had to give up all his possessions in order to have eternal life and to follow Jesus. He would rather keep his possessions and not follow Christ if it came to that. On another occasion, in Luke 14: 33, when Jesus was telling a great multitude of people about counting the cost of being His disciple He made this statement – "Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple." Oh, this should be the attitude of our heart at all times as a believer; to hang loose to the World and the things of the World, to be able to give them up when called upon to do so. And this leads us to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Phrase from our text which shows us something which Joseph did, which Christ also does, for all of His elect people:

**3<sup>rd</sup> – "Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh."**

Verse 18 says – “When that year had ended, they came to him the next year and said to him, ‘We will not hide from my lord that our money is gone; my lord also has our herds of livestock.’ “There is nothing left in the sight of my lord but our bodies and our lands.” “Why should we die before your eyes, both we and our land?” “Buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants of Pharaoh; give us seed, that we may live and not die, that the land may not be desolate.” “Then Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for every man of the Egyptians sold his field, because the famine was severe upon them.” “So the land became Pharaoh’s.” Here we have Joseph’s redemption of all the people of the land of Egypt and the land. This is a picture of Jesus Christ’s redemption of all of His elect people; He being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World, as it says in John 1: 29.

These words show us specifically, how people are bought back from their sin; how they are redeemed to God, and how they come to have an eternal inheritance. Jesus Christ buys them. He purchased us who believe in Him. And so the eternal inheritance becomes ours, from the moment that we first believe. If you turn to Ephesians 1, you will see the truth of this. In verse 7 it says – “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on the earth – in Him.” “In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.” “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.”

What is being said here is that you who believe in Jesus Christ presently have redemption through His blood; He has indeed purchased this for you. He is gathering everyone who believes in Him, to Himself. And He gives you the bread of life in His word. He gives you the life of the Holy Spirit to live within you as the down payment, until the further, full, and complete redemption of all who believe, takes place at the last day. And then someday you shall receive your glorified body, and you will enter in to the eternal inheritance of the New Heavens and the New Earth, in which will dwell righteousness. I hope that you will rejoice today, my dear friends, in what Jesus Christ has done. He has bought you with His precious blood, and He also purchased all that you are spiritually being blessed with now, and all that you will possess in Him in the days and years to come, all the way to eternity and throughout eternity. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

I think it would be appropriate at this point to also startle you with something that you may never thought of before. And that is the future conversion of the nation of Egypt. Joseph also bought the whole land of Egypt for Pharaoh it says in verse 20. I spoke to you in my last message about the conversion of the Jews as a nation. We see in verse 11 that “Joseph situated his father and his brothers in Goshen, and he gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Ramses, as Pharaoh had commanded. There he “provided for his father, his brothers, and all his father’s household with bread”. But we should also see and understand from these verses, if I am right in this typical application, that since Joseph bought all of the land of Egypt for Pharaoh, that we may also expect to see the conversion of the nation of Egypt in the time of the Millennium that is coming.

If you will turn with me over to Isaiah 19, I think that you will catch a glimpse of it there. I haven’t time to go into all this at the close of this sermon, but let me read to you a few verses to show you the power and saving strength of the Lord. In verse 19 it says – “In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border.” “And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will

deliver them.” “Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day, and will make sacrifice and offering; yet they will make a vow to the Lord and perform it.” “And the Lord will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the Lord, and He will be entreated by them and heal them.” “In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians.” “In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria – a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, “Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance.” Now, I am sure that this has never yet happened yet in human history, but these verses tell us that the day is coming, and it may not be too many years off, when this blessed event will come to pass. Christ, I believe, has purchased not only individuals, but He has also purchased whole nations as well by His saving work at the cross.

**4<sup>th</sup> – We have the phrase, “Look, here is seed for you to sow the Land”.**

Verse 23 says – “Then Joseph said to the people, ‘Indeed I have bought you and your land this day for Pharaoh.’ “Look, here is seed for you, and you shall sow the land.” So – All the grain that Joseph had saved back, to make bread with in the time of the famine, had lasted for all of those 7 long years. The people themselves believed that the famine would end, just when Joseph said it would. He gave them the seed to sow their crops with in the next year, so that they would have a harvest. This is a good picture of the life of a Christian after he comes to Christ. He comes to Christ for the forgiveness of his sins, but he also comes in order to learn to sow to righteousness; that he might have a good outcome to his life and his work; so that he might be rewarded by God at the end of time, on the Day of judgment. Everything may indeed have been lost in regard to your past life, before Christ. But Christ will give you seed to sow your new life with.

The person who is saved once sowed to their flesh, but now they sow to the Spirit. And they will persevere and be zealous to sow in righteousness. Listen to 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 9: 8 and following. “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” “As it is written, ‘He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ “Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.” “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”

Let me ask you – When you hear these words, do you thank God for His indescribable gift of what Jesus Christ has done for you? Joseph thought that the people ought to be thankful for their deliverance too. And so he said to them in verse 24 – “And it shall come to pass in the harvest that you shall give one-fifth to Pharaoh.” “Four-fifths shall be your own, as seed for the field and for your food, for those of your households, and as food for your little ones.” “So they said, “You have saved our lives; let us find favor in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh’s servants.” This was, indeed, not only very generous of Joseph, but it was also very wise. Because it would be the means of rebuilding the whole country, as well as securing the welfare of all of its citizens. May each of us see the value of paying our taxes so that all citizens are benefitted. May we work hard to provide for our own households, knowing that Christ has bought us; He has redeemed us by His blood. Let us labor also for our Lord, to increase the fruits of righteousness which we bring to Him, knowing that we are enriched in everything. He give us this abundance so that we might be liberal in our giving of ourselves, and all that we have, to Him, to see His cause and kingdom advanced.