

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

FBC Vidalia

Dr. Ricky Cummings

**Series: Rescued by God – A Study of Genesis 12-50**

**Sermon: Seeking Peace!**

**Genesis 43-45:15**

Restoring Shalom:

Four times the word *Shalom* is used:

**Genesis 43:23 (ESV)** He replied, “Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

Also in **Genesis 43:27-28**

**Genesis 37:4 (ESV)** But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

**Genesis 37:14 (ESV)** So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Jacob’s fears:

**Genesis 42:38 (ESV)** But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”

God wanted Jacob to bury the idols of his heart, as he had buried his household’s physical idols at Shechem on his return to the Promised Land (Gen. 35:4).

What are the idols to which you and I cling so tightly that we cannot imagine life having meaning and value without them?

The promised seed, the true descendant of Judah and Tamar, was God’s own beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Far from clinging to him fearfully, the Father sent Him into this broken and pain-filled world to restore our broken *shalom*. Where we instinctively move away from suffering and flee from pain, God chose to enter our world and embrace the pain and suffering that came with that choice. The Father knew what our reconciliation would cost Jesus and what the cost would be to Himself. Jesus was not the only one who wept over Jerusalem, devastated at the hardness of hearts that kept people from coming to Him for forgiveness (Luke 19:41). The Father also knew that His own chosen people would reject and scorn Him, preferring their darkness to the light that Jesus came to bring (John 3:19). He knew that Jesus’ earthly brothers would take Him and sell Him for silver, before torturing and killing Him. What must it have done to the Father’s heart to watch His beloved Son undergo such terrible agony?

Yet that painful journey through a world of suffering and brokenness was necessary for Jesus in order to heal our shattered *shalom*, reconciling us to God at the cost of His own blood. God Himself paid the full price of our reconciliation to Him. All we have to do is bow our hearts before Him, acknowledging that we have wandered far away, and asking Him to receive us back into His favor. The salvation that we have received in Christ is far greater than anything we could have imagined or dreamed up for ourselves: God Himself pays the desperate debt that we owe, in order that we may receive the glorious inheritance that Christ earned.