

## ENTERING INTO JOSEPH'S HOUSE

- This evening, as we look at this pericope, we will not treat it so much in its historical redemptive significance, but its typical significance.
- What a picture we have of holy communion in God's house, communion through our greater Joseph, reunited and having fellowship.

### I. **THE APPROACH TO JOSEPH'S HOUSE**

- A. Divinely ordered and realized.
  1. God through the famine causes Jacob to capitulate and send his sons with Benjamin to Egypt.
  2. Joseph eagerly looking for his brothers with Benjamin has the brothers ushered to his house, a feast prepared.
  3. Is this not spiritually true? God ordains us to come to his house through our great need.
  4. Does not our brother Jesus set all things in motion that we may be wonderfully loved and fed in his house?
- B. Great fear in the approach.
  1. What a beautiful home: Who are we to be invited to this home?
  2. The brothers are afraid because of the money in their sacks: afraid of a trap.
  3. The greater reason for fear is the guilt that weighs in their hearts (Gen. 42:28).
  4. Is not the house of God splendid? In his blest courts to worship.
  5. Who are we? With all of our sin and guilt weighing us down, what right do we have to enter and dwell in his house?
  6. The brothers come expecting to be dealt with harshly again, instead are received as guests of royalty.
- C. The 'Shalom' given.
  1. As they try to portray their innocence, a beautiful word uttered to them by the steward of the house. "Shalom".
  2. The steward speaks to them of a payment made, and the grace and providence of the God of their father. "Elohim"
  3. The excellency of Joseph is commended in the person of his steward; the excellency of God in the person of his Son
  4. As we approach God's throne, we are reassured of God's grace, mercy, and peace.
  5. It is our covenant God who seeks us out and brings us to himself in Christ Jesus.

### II. **THE RECEPTION IN JOSEPH'S HOUSE**

- A. The Steward sees to the washing of their feet.
  1. Simeon is released from the prison and reunited with his brothers.
  2. The steward provides water for the brothers to wash their feet, and food for their donkeys.
  3. Jesus took the position of a servant to wash the feet of his disciples.
  4. We too have been released from the prison of our sins and bondage, and have been washed in precious blood.
  5. It is this spiritual cleansing that enables us to come and fellowship in the house of the greater Joseph.
- B. The gift prepared.
  1. Jacob, Jacob, are you up to old tricks and old schemes to get out of trouble?
  2. Preparation is carefully made for the getting of gifts and the presentation of gifts for the Master of the house.
  3. But Joseph is not interested in the gifts but the ones who bring the gifts: how is it with the father? Benjamin?
  4. And what gifts shall we bring to God's house? How much preparation in the gifts? What is the reason we bring them?
  5. We must notice the beautiful tears, tears of love, bowels yearning for his brothers and the greater Joseph's love.
  6. Wonderful love, but not known yet by the brothers.
- C. The seating at the table.
  1. The brothers are seated separate in Joseph's house from the Egyptians: Moses points to the pride of the Egyptians.
  2. Still today the Lord uses hatred of world for the spiritual separation.
  3. We must keep ourselves pure from the filth of the world for the Lord's sake.
  4. The brothers are all seated around the table according to age, the distinctions of mothers put aside.
  5. So also in the house of God all distinctions re. nationality, gender, age means nothing; we are equally brothers.

### III. **THE ABUNDANT FEAST IN JOSEPH'S HOUSE.**

- A. The sumptuous meal
  1. The brothers are fed food from off of Joseph's table: luxurious food to be received in a liberal and joyful manner
  2. Those who had been suffering from famine are treated to an abundance of good food.
  3. Not only were they fed, but they enjoyed fellowship with the master of the house.
  4. We read that they were merry with him.
  5. And what of us as we enter and are fed by our Joseph? Do we rejoice in the good food and fellowship with him?
  6. They leave the house of Joseph merry and happy on the way home, not knowing what trials lay ahead.
- B. The portions of food.
  1. Joseph feeds his brothers not family style, but to each his portion.
  2. But to Benjamin he metes out a portion five-fold. Not that Benjamin can eat more, but part of the pedagogical testing.
  3. The brothers are no longer envious of Benjamin because of the privilege he enjoys.
- C. The type still hidden.
  1. In the house with Joseph but they did not yet know it!
  2. Joseph loves them, but must still prove whether they are indeed changed men: Simeon, Benjamin's portion.
  3. What will they do when the favorite is caught with the silver cup in his sack? Leave or love?
  4. The great antitype has revealed himself to us by his cross and resurrection.
  5. But at times he seems to be hidden to us because our sins are standing in the way.
  6. Confessing our sins, we come to Joseph's house and we are fed by him, instructed by him, enjoy him.
  7. And we look forward to when we will enter his house above and fully know him and enjoy him.