

Kev's sermon notes for eGroups

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021

Elevation Church - Broadcasting from Ballantyne Campus – Charlotte, NC USA

Pastor: Steven Furtick

Sermon Title: "How to Get to the Good Part - It is Going to Be Better – A Better Expression and a Better Provision – In Gen 1 as in Gen 50, it never stopped being Good – Don't use scripture to be mean – don't substitute judgment for holiness – To get the Good part, you have to get through the dark part & judgement – Don't let things die in the dark – Darkness Does not need to Go Way for the Light be Effective - Make it to the table - and sugar-coated answers or comparison & envy are not helpful – Get to intimacy thought the insecurity – God starts Good in the Dark.

Elevation Worship

- Lifted
- Graves to Gardens - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwX1f2gYKZ4> (with over 18 million views on YouTube)
- See a victory - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJghcUSZyK4> (with 19 million views on YouTube)
- Resurrecting - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf8Zzn4nOzc> (with 41 million views on YouTube)

Scripture for this week:

- **Hebrews 1:** "In the beginning, Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."
- **Gen 50: 19 to 23:** Joseph Reassures His Brothers - 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. 18 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? **20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.** 21 So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. The Death of Joseph - **22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years 23 and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.** 24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." 25 And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." 26 So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

- **Genesis 1: 1 to 5:** The Beginning - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. **4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.**
- **Isaiah 5: 20:** "Woe to those who draw sin along with cords of deceit, and wickedness as with cart ropes, 19 to those who say, "Let God hurry; let him hasten his work so we may see it. The plan of the Holy One of Israel—let it approach, let it come into view, so we may know it." 20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight."
- **James 1:17:** "16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created."
- **John 16: 5 to 7:** 16 "All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.
- **Gal 5:** "22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."
- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
- **Psalm 23** - A psalm of David. "1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
- **Phil 1:6** - 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Sermon Title: “How to Get to the Good Part - It is Going to Be Better – A Better Expression and a Better Provision – In Gen 1 as in Gen 50, it never stopped being Good – Don’t use scripture to be mean – don’t substitute judgment for holiness – To get the Good part, you have to get through the dark part & judgement – Don’t let things die in the dark – Darkness Does not need to Go Way for the Light be Effective - Make it to the table - and sugar-coated answers or comparison & envy are not helpful – Get to intimacy thought the insecurity – God starts Good in the Dark.

- **Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don’t have to walk this walk alone? – See www.elevationchurch.cc.**
- **Interested in joining Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in leading an eGroup? See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- **Interested in attending or leading a watch party: See: www.elevationchurch.cc**
- Here Comes Church:
 - We celebrate our global church family.
 - Thank you for all that host a watch parties all over the world.
 - See the YouTube channel for eKids for age-appropriate sermons and events.
 - We prayer for our Partnership of Convey of Hope – on the ground in Texas and serving those in need. Thus far Elevation Church has given \$75K to Convey of Hope in 2021.
 - On the occasion of the 15-year anniversary at Elevation Church, \$1.5M was given to the following outreach partners: Convoy of Hope, Safe Journey, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Samaritans Purse, Downs Syndrome Association of Charlotte, Human Coalition, Matthews Free Medical Clinic, Compassion International, Servants With a Heart, Rise Aainst Hunger, International Prison Fellowship, Preemptive Love, Monna, and Medical Benevolence Association.
 - Dang! Very impressive! - Elevation On-Line USA tour – broadcasting from Houston and serving over 300 hours via outreach partners – and hosting a baptism event in Houston.
 - We celebrate Black History Month – Recall the awesome profile of Brittney and Eric Law (Director of Promising Pages) – providing both doors and mirrors through great books – developing a diverse book list and targeting 25K book goal via cashing donation – Elevation Church just made a \$50K donation to this outreach partner.
 - Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music have collaborated on a new album that will be released in the Spring of 2021 – called “The Heart of God” – a new season and new sound. Also see: <https://www.maverickcitymusic.com/>
 - **Physical Campuses launching 2nd worship experiences at 11:30 AM on Sunday.**
 - Interested in serving or volunteering? See www.elevationchurch.cc
- **Opening Prayer #1 by Pastor Steven Furtick on 2/28/2021: *“The Lord is telling me this – It is going to be better than it was before – Don’t ask God to bring back things the way they were - because it’s going to get better – in Hebrews 1, we learned that God spoke to us in various and sundry ways – but now he has spoken to us through His son – in the form of a better expression – in the form of a better covenant – by way of the author of a better promise – as God takes us from glory to glory he’s not going to take us backwards – resurrection is better than restoration –***

restoration involves God giving you back what you lost – resurrection involves a transforming process – where you’re not even going to recognize what God gave you and showed you. He’s not coming back like a lamb – Jesus is coming back like a roaring lion – and coming back better – and let us have faith to hold onto that thought – God we thank you that you were in the process of changing us – and for the situation that are not changing right now - well that’s OK – for we know that you are using the situation to change us – we are going to be better – you are better and there is nothing better than you – bring on better – it has been a year since we’ve been able to meet together in all of the ways that we used to – so God comes to us – like we learned with Jacob, God’s presence is wherever we make an altar – watching church on-line while sitting at a small card table is just as good – the darker it gets the brighter we should shine – I pray that this word reaches from eternity to this Sunday – or to 4am on Thursday – and from this plastic pulpit to the hearts of those that need to get to the good part – those that are holding on and those that are pushing through – I declare today that we are going to get to the good part – in Jesus name amen.

- See Gen 50:19 to 23.
- The entire story of Joseph has seven seasons and spans 14 chapters in the book of Genesis – and there’s a lot we have to track when we read the story of Joseph – the betrayal – the hurt – and the promise God made. Kev suggestion: Read this chapters sometime in the next 30 days:
 - 37 - Joseph’s Dreams · Joseph Sold by His Brothers
 - 39 - Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife
 - 40 - The Cupbearer and the Baker
 - 41 - Pharaoh’s Dreams · Joseph in Charge of Egypt
 - 42 - Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt
 - 43 - The Second Journey to Egypt
 - 44 - A Silver Cup in a Sack
 - 45 - Joseph Makes Himself Known
 - 46 – Jacob Goes to Egypt
 - 47 – Joseph and the Famine
 - 48 – Manasseh and Ephraim
 - 49 – Jacob Blesses His Sons · The Death of Jacob
 - 50 - Joseph Reassures His Brothers · The Death of Joseph
- Recall Pastor Furtick’s story about watching a Netflix series where the first two seasons were a bit boring and the good part was in season three – we all want to get to the good part. I certainly don’t like pushing through two seasons or 20 hours of programming to get to the good part.
- The title of today’s sermon is “Get to The Good Part.”
- Come to think of it, I don’t even like the word good.
- I want goose bumps not “it was good” – oh that sermon was good – no! I wanted my sermon to be amazing and life changing – I want things to be great, awesome, terrific, wonderful, incredible, stupendous, mind-blowing, ridiculous, sick, glorious, excellent, outstanding, insane, outstanding.
- As Joseph completes a lengthy journey with many twists and turns in Gen 50, and he tells his brothers God meant it for good – it’s amazing that he uses that term for all that he has been through – and it seems like a \$.25 word for such an amazing experience – costing him freedom and the better part of his life – and the only thing he can say at the end of his life is – well, it was good.

- **The very last thing that Joseph says in Genesis 50 is the very first thing that God says Genesis 1. See Genesis 1: 1 to 5: “The Beginning - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. 3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.**
- Joseph’s story did not start in Genesis 37 – it started in Genesis 1.
- Your story didn’t start on your birthday.
- Joseph is standing in a moment that he never could have anticipated – he just found out that his father had died – and he is weeping over the loss of his father Jacob – and Joseph’s brothers now are concerned about retribution – however Joseph is more concerned about what God made for good.
- And with all of Joseph’s brothers at his feet – and concerned that Joseph was going to hurt them.
- Recall that Joseph is in Egypt and serving the very people (his brothers) that betrayed him.
- And this is the part where all preachers love to talk about – Joseph says you meant it for evil God meant it for good.
- **Isn’t it crazy the last thing we see in the last chapter of the book of Genesis is referencing the first book of the bible – in the first chapter of Genesis, God said it was good – in the last chapter of the book of Genesis, Joseph says God made it for good – and God’s plan throughout the process never stopped being good – can you see this by faith today? It never stopped being good – He never stop being good – so when we get in the concept of was it good? – and this depends on our perspective.**
- Recall last week we talked about “What we call small” – and what God calls big – the little devils that you stress about all day long that you can’t get over – the little hurdles that you make up in your mind – all little things to God – with a flick of this finger and breath from His mouth – all those things that we stress about are small to God. However, things like character are big to God – even though it appears small to us – where we compromise our character to get clout – God says I will make your name great and you don’t have to take your clothes off on Tiktok.
- The prophet Isaiah says we have this problem – See Isaiah 5:20 – “20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.”
- And we’ve all have experienced this even in church – even using religion as a cover-up for prejudice – this is what Isaiah is talking about – when we call evil good and good evil – Christians can be the most close minded and hateful people – and I love you all and I’m stuck with you all – I am “all in” because I gave my life to Jesus Christ – however we should not use religion to be close minded and not consider other perspectives – are you standing on the throne of God or are you incorrectly stuck in tradition? Nor should we use the message of the Bible in order to be mean to each other. We should not substitute judgment and call it holiness – where evil is only what other people are doing – we need to challenge our assumptions that are preventing us from accessing the blessing of God.
- Recall the old preacher joke that Pastor shared initially in “The Essential James” Series – where a women is reminded three times by the preacher to improve her dress before coming to church.
- A Pharisee tried to trip up Jesus and called Jesus a “good teacher” – where Jesus replies there’s only one good and that is God.

- We all aspire to be Good – but we all have dark parts – there is a part of every person that is really dark – that are brought out of us during different situations – and some people’s darkness is more socially acceptable than others – and people that don’t know your dark areas yet probably have not gotten close enough to you yet.
- **Think about Joseph here – he went through false imprisonment – was left beaten and abandoned by his brothers – he was even falsely accused of rape – and he had to deal with these offenses on the most epic scale – and yet he was able to say something so powerful – God intended it for good.**
- In our efforts to skip to that point – we say it’s all good – and sing Romans 8:28 to ourselves – (Kev note: *“8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*) – however Romans 8:28 doesn’t say “it’s all good” – this is not what Paul said – all things are not good – we have people out here that I’ve been molested and raped – we’ve got people out here that can’t pay their bills – it is not “all good” – what we can say with accuracy is that it is going to be good.
- And this is what I want to preach to you today – I want to get to the good part – however I need to warn you – you can’t get to the good part if you are not willing to go through the dark part.
- There is a dark part in every person.
- **Even the great Joseph was tempted to make his brothers pay for what they did to him – and nobody probably talks about this when they prepare for sermons on the story of Joseph – where Joseph was tricking his brothers by hiding a cup in a bag (Kev note: See Gen 44) – we’re Joseph had to decide on how to respond.**
- How do we respond to something dark that God let into our lives?
- So we can’t preach “It’s all good” – because before Joseph got to the good part (where he tells his brothers that he will provide for his family), he had to go through the dark part– and so do we.
- It is important for us to know that our first reactions are not coming from our realist selves.
- When people explode by yelling or tipping over tables, the common refrain as “I’m just being real” – no, that was a reaction – this is when we let the dark part run the show – but greater is He that is in you – (Kev note: See: 1 John 4:4: *4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*)
- **Do you know that part of you that is wise, kind, and good? The Good part? Well, some of the best advice we can give ourselves is to keep our mouths shut during the dark part – because we do not know what to do with the dark part – and will never get to the good part unless we learn how to deal with the dark part – and we might have to make it through a few difficult seasons before it gets good – getting through some confusion – in order to put things into perspective.**
- Without the set-up the punchline “God did it for good” is not effective. It has been years since Joseph brothers came back in Genesis 50 – and Joseph has been afforded an opportunity to reflect and look back on it.
- And spoon-feeding people “sugarcoated” answers isn’t the right strategy in teaching this scripture – nor is it your job to profess “there’s a reason for everything” when someone’s going through a hard time.
- When Joseph said what he said (in Genesis 50), he wasn’t being God he was just acting like it – because Joseph saw what was good through the darkness – isn’t this what God did in Genesis 1? – I never realized that Genesis 50 was just a continuation of what it was it what was said in Genesis 1.

- Recall the 7 creations of God – where he made the sun before there was light – See Gen 1:4 – God saw that it was good – God did not need light because he was light.
- **When creating something for God (a song, a sermon, a family, a great relationship, an act of service, changing a habit, etc.), there's always the dark part (memories, temptations, etc.) – and every process has a dark part – where we want to potentially quit – and part of the process is to push through negative feedback and judgment – there's always a part of every process that is dark and may even arrive just before the best part – and if you let things die in the dark – you may never get to the light.**
- I want to tell every high school students this: High School is weird for everybody – people are still people – everyone is facing challenges – and life is still hard – and life is not always this surge of hormones and weirdness – and it won't always be this dark – and we have to live wherever we are and no matter what season we're going through – Live to see it through – remain confident in this: we have light and we will see the goodness of the Lord. It's going to get good – and better – and you have not even met your best self yet – and you have got to get through this valley – fear no evil as you walk through the valley (Kev note: See Psalm 23).
- Psalm 23 - A psalm of David. *"1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*
- Question: Is a rod or a staff a good thing? – Answer: it depends if you are a wolf or a sheep.
- **For everything that God does in our lives – it may not feel good – but it is good – because God is still good – make it to the table first – you are going to make it – you were born to make it - the church needs you to make it – your family needs you to make it – it is necessary that you make it – you've got to get to the good part. See Psalm 23 - You have to locate the Israel inside of your Jacob – be the one that God called you to be – you've got to make it to the table – and even if we make it to the table we all have to go through the shadows – because every good thing has a dark part.**
- See James 1:17: *"16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. 17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created."*
- Note the contrast and James 1 – everything has a contrast or shifting shadow – what concerns me is some of you don't get to the good part of your marriage or your gift.
- One of the biggest challenges of learning a guitar is pressing through the finger pain – and build up calluses on my fingers – make sure you don't quit before the calluses.
- **Don't sabotage your life because you're unable to sit through periods of loneliness – don't give away something that is very important – wait for the good part – God tells Joseph not to throw his brothers out because that is how he's going to build a nation – wait for a good part.**

- James tells us that we should not be deceived – if it is good, it came from God – if God blesses you through somebody or something, it came from God – you need not even unwrap this gift because you know who gave it.
- Question which disciple put Jesus to the cross? John, the one he loved or Judas, the one who betrayed him? Now I think you see the theme of my message – get to the good part – the part that feels good isn't always the part that is good – and we only realize this when we reflect on it.
- **Let's go deeper on this: if it is good, it came from God – what if it didn't come from God? It is going to be good anyway – and this is where we can preach Romans 8:28 - In all things God works for the good – the good part is what Paul says next – “of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”**
- When we call something good we have to understand something about God – God doesn't call something good based on how you feel when it's happening – God doesn't call something good based on how it matches your preferences at the time – God says “it's good” when it serves its purpose – a musician sings with a microphone and sits in the chair – it might be a good stool but you can't sing into it – please stop calling something “not-good” just because it does not fit within the function or purpose that you applied to it.
- **Key point: The darkness does not have to go away for the light to be affective. Sometimes in order to get to the good part in your life you have to get to the good part in your mind – are you waiting for things to get good in your life while God is waiting for you to do things to get good in your mind?**
- Recall the story of a rainy Sunday provided an opportunity for the greeters to shine by showcasing their new Elevation Church umbrella's – where one person's perspective is to reflect and say “it is good” after the rain starts.
- Instead of struggling with comparison in envy, consider what you are good at – but darkness does not want you to see that – God said let there be light – shine the light on the good parts – seek out and discover the good parts – and this is why our consumption is important – and this is why every week I make comments about your phone and your social media accounts – and the 24 hour cyclone – I mean new cycle – Is it really good that you have to dig through so much garbage in order to be informed?
- We always get in trouble when we try to do God's job – consider Adam and Eve and their curiosity with the tree of good and evil vs. the tree of life.
- And it's amazing how Joseph echoes back toward what God said when He spoke the universe into existence.
- See John 16: 5 to 7
- Joseph said it was good when he was looking back and reflecting – and this is powerful – and it takes a mature perspective to understand this.
- **Here is where the real power is: In John 16 Jesus is getting ready to leave his disciples and they are sad – disciples are grieving the loss of Jesus' physical presence – and Jesus is trying to convince them of something they're not really sure about – here is the assurance that Jesus gives us: See John 16: 7-8: “7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment”**

- Here is the upgrade: Jesus was with us – the Holy Spirit will be in you – but first Jesus has to go – the fact that Jesus is leaving as the dark part – the good part is the fruit of the spirit – See Gal 5: “22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
- Jesus knows what the disciples are about to go through – and Jesus also knows what they are going to get to – and Jesus is giving them something to help them as they go through this painful moment – these winter months – the dark part – this hard part of your day – this hard part of your life – the hard part of your marriage – the hard part of your ministry – and if you don’t go through the dark part you won’t be able to get to the good part.
- **When people read the Bible and think it’s some sort of Fortune cookie – they eventually give up on God – and say things like this isn’t working and God’s not real – the good part is when we find out that it’s not in the answers that God becomes real – God becomes real when we wrestle with the questions – and when we find out there’s a kingdom within us – this is the good part.**
- **We will never get to the good part if we are unwilling to go through the dark part – and some people never get to intimacy within relationships because they won’t push through the insecurity. To get a real intimacy you have to go through insecurity - one person calls it in-too-me-see – and this can be scary – so we never get to experience this because we never get through the insecurity in the process of being vulnerable with others.**
- **Jacob spent his whole life pretending to be someone else – we all have flaws – some people never achieve their destiny because they can’t get through the disappointment – and never get to the wisdom because they are not willing to work through the bitterness – to get to the good part we need to get through the dark part – and God is with us – Jesus tells his disciples in John 16 that he’s going away but God is still with us – and this is good for you. Joseph had it right – Jesus took it to another level.**
- What if you could stand in the darkest place where you can’t even see 2 feet ahead of you – where you do not know who is going to be with you – where you cannot predict how God is going to provide – what if we could be like Jesus and say it is good – and if it’s not good right now it’s going to be good later.
- **In Genesis 1 - on the first day of creation - God says the light is good – and in Genesis 50, Joseph look back on his life and all that he has been through and says – “It was good” – we all need the faith to see this: if it came from God, it is good – and if it is good, it came from God – it may not be good right now but it will be when God is done with it – Dear God help me appreciate the gifts that you put in my life – and some of us don’t realize how good it was until it is gone – and we all want to be like that – to say that it was so good that we didn’t realize how good it was until it was gone – and sometimes we don’t know how good it was until it is gone – Dear Lord preach this word to us all – and let us know that even in the valley there is a table – and we all have to go through the dark part to get to the good part.**
- See Gen 50:22 – *“22 Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father’s family. He lived a hundred and ten years 23 and saw the third generation of Ephraim’s children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph’s knees. 24 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”*

- Every sermon that I've ever heard about Joseph was the centered around the first 30 years of his life – and I came to prophesy today – to tell you that you have more life to live – and we haven't even gotten to the good part yet – you've got more things to do – you've got more love to give – you've got more to do – Joseph stayed in Egypt and lived to be 110 – he did not die in the pit – he did not die in the prison – and I believe that we will see the goodness of God – as Joseph was able to see the third generation of Ephraim's children – where his grandchildren were sitting on his knees on the same place of his suffering – we haven't even got to the good part yet – we have not seen God's best yet – we have not yet experienced what God has for us – there is something on the other side of this present darkness.
- As it says in Gen 1:4-5 - 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. So why evening and then morning and not morning and then evening? – Because we have to remember how it started – See Gen 1:1-2 – God starts good in the dark – You might be the dark right now and confused – this is where it starts with God – The dark part is just a preview as to how big God really is – This is what I mean about the process of getting to the good part – There something about every living person that might trigger you consider murdering them – But we can't stop the sermon in the dark part – the evening is the prelude to the morning in the economy of God
- Closing prayer on 2/28/2021 by Pastor Furtick: "God takes what the enemy took for evil and turned to Good – Don't die in the dark part for this would be a miscarriage of your calling – you don't have to believe that it's good right now – If needed, temporarily borrow the confidence of others – Paul says this in Phil 1:6: *"6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* If it started with God, it does not depend on people – You are not going to die in a valley – Let's get to the good part – I declare and decree on the authority of your word God – what the apostle Paul prophesied over the church at Philippi – I declare over this church – we've got to go through the dark part but we're going to get to the good part – you are going to be an amazing person – you are going to be an amazing provider – Lord I thank you even at 2 AM when I can't find a friend and You are still there – I thank that when we trip and fall over her own misgivings You are still there – We are going to make to the table – even when my enemies are there with us – I am still going to taste the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. May we not live our lives living the idle of tomorrow – or cling to a relic of the past – and permit us to push past the religion to get to the friendship – You are good – It is Good in Jesus name. Amen."

Today's Charles Spurgeon Moment: EVENING TO ME, THOUGH I AM THE VERY LEAST OF ALL THE SAINTS, THIS GRACE WAS GIVEN, TO PREACH TO THE GENTILES THE UNSEARCHABLE RICHES OF CHRIST. EPHESIANS 3:8 - Additional commentary by Charles Spurgeon: "The apostle Paul felt it a great privilege to be allowed to preach the Gospel. He did not look upon his calling as a drudgery, but he entered upon it with intense delight. Although Paul was thankful for his calling, his success in it greatly humbled him. The fuller a ship becomes, the deeper it sinks in the water. Idlers may indulge a fond conceit of their abilities, because they are untried; but the earnest worker soon learns his own weakness. If you seek humility, try hard work; if you would know your nothingness, attempt some great thing for Jesus. If you want to feel how utterly powerless you are apart from the living God, attempt especially the great work of proclaiming the unsearchable riches of Christ,

and you will know, as you never knew before, what a weak, unworthy thing you are. Although the apostle thus knew and confessed his weakness, he was never perplexed as to the subject of his ministry. From his first sermon to his last, Paul preached Christ, and nothing but Christ. He lifted up the cross and extolled the Son of God who bled on it. Follow his example in all your personal efforts to spread the glad tidings of salvation and let "Christ and Him crucified" be your ever-recurring theme. The Christian should be like those lovely spring flowers that, when the sun is shining, open their golden cups, as if saying, "Fill us with your beams!" But when the sun is hidden behind a cloud, they close their cups and droop their heads. So should the Christian feel the sweet influence of Jesus."