



Day 5

Scriptural Background: Gen 50

"20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Gen 50:20

Joseph's brothers had sinned against him. Jealous of his favored status, they conspired against him, cast him into a pit, betrayed him, sold him for silver, and regarded him as dead (Gen 37). They meant him evil. Yet, in one of the great statements of divine sovereignty and human responsibility in all of Scripture, Joseph here states that what they meant for evil, God meant for good. Curiously we often read that as if it said something weaker, like that God "allowed" or "permitted" what his brothers had done. But, it's the same verb as was used of the brothers: though not authoring evil, God "meant, intended, planned, willed" what came about. How can this be? Ultimately we see it's a template for Another Son, highly favored, who would be rejected by His brothers, and sold for pieces of silver, betrayed, and not just regarded as dead, but actually killed—and all this would be but the accomplishing of God's will (Acts 2:23–24, 4:27–28) to take human evil and use *it* as the very means for accomplishing His redemption, "the saving of many lives, as is now being done." Let that sovereign plan give you confidence with whatever evil you are facing, that in Christ you may say with Joseph, "God has meant this for my good and the good of His people" (Rom 8:28).

Prayer:

*Father God, who has ever apprehended the full council of Your plans! In full view of how You work, may You give us hope no matter what great dreams we feel are currently languishing in prison. Let us remember that the path of Your gospel is first into the cistern, into the pit, and then to be raised to the skies, to the right hand position of power, acceptance, and glory. In Jesus' Name we pray.
Amen.*