**The Great Gift of Perspective**

**Main Idea: Perspective in trials: a great parental gift**

**Introduction: The value of perspective**

**Paul’s perspective in Philippians**

* + **In Jail: “The gospel is not locked up”**
	+ **About false teachers: “As long as Christ is preached”**
	+ **A determination to rejoice: “I WILL rejoice” … “this will turn out for my salvation.”**
	+ **About dying: “That’s a lot better”**

**The great example of Joseph**

**Background to the story**

* + **Simeon and Levi (#s2 and 3) – Gen. 34 and the Dinah incident; Used the covenant of God to kill the men**
	+ **Reuban (#1) – Gen. 35:22 – Father’s concubine = “you’re out”**
	+ **Canaan was not a good influence on Israel’s sons.**
	+ **After the warning of Canaan’s impact, ch. 36 = the ascension of Esau’s family**

**Ten Scenes: Genesis 37-50**

**I. The dream: Ch. 37: Joseph’s predicted ascension and the family’s reaction**

**37:12-36 – Judah (#4) encourages the betrayal of Joseph into slavery.**

* **37:2 – Joseph is 17 years old**
* **Sold into slavery**
* **Midianites were descendants of Keturah, Abraham’s third wife**
* **37:31-35 - Heartless to their father, knowing it could have killed him**

**II. Further decline: Ch. 38 – Judah’s corruption**

**III. Potipher’s wife and more betrayal: Ch. 39**

**IV. The Butler and the forgetful Baker: More disappointment: Ch. 40**

**V. Pharoah’s dreams: Ch. 41 – It starts to make sense**

* **41:46 – 30 years old – it’s been 13 years since his dream with his family**

**VI. The brothers to Egypt and back: Ch. 42**

**VII. Returning with Benjamin: Ch. 43**

**VIII. Joseph’s cup and Judah’s intercession: Ch. 44**

**IX. Joseph’s revelation and his perspective: Ch. 45**

* **45:6 – seven years + 2 years = Joseph was 39 years old**
* **Three wow sections in Ch. 45**
	+ **45:7-8 – Spiritual perspective; “I see God’s hand!”**
	+ **15 - Healing**
	+ **24 – Wisdom**

**X. Epilogue: Guilt, fear, and reassurance: Ch. 50:15-21**

**So, what if ...?**