Theology threads NL

A New Life Church podcast with Dr. Brian Jenkins

Theology Threads | Season 8: Episode 8 Notes |How God Brings All Things Together For Good

Summary
In this season finale on Joseph, Dr. Brian Jenkins looks at Genesis 50, where Joseph's brothers fear he'll take revenge now that Jacob has died. Joseph responds from three perspectives. He isn't in God's place to punish them, God turned what they meant for evil into good, and so he is free to forgive, provide for them, and be reconciled. Dr. Brian builds on the Hebrew word for "meant" in verse 20, which shares its root with "to weave," and ties it to the garment imagery that runs through Joseph's story. God keeps re-weaving even the torn threads of our lives into his purpose, which is how divine sovereignty and human free will can coexist. He closes with Joseph's final request that his bones be carried to the promised land, and with Oxford English Dictionary editor James Murray's reflection that his life's work was shaped by God. The takeaway is that we can forgive, endure, and trust God's pattern without needing to control it.

You can email us with questions at hello@theothread.com

Reflection Questions

Has there been a moment(s) in life that was so chaotic, messy, or painful that you couldn't see how God could use it for good?

In reflection of Joseph's story, what is God saying to you about the chaos and pain in your life?

Is there someone in your life that needs encouragement to believe that God is "working all things together for good"?