

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the purpose of Joseph to accuse his brothers of spying?
2. Due to his experiences, Joseph was able to keep from revealing himself until a better time. In what ways does a lack of patience hinder the church today?
3. The experiences of the brothers was a result of sin. Do people today make similar experiences as a result of sin?
4. The brothers displayed a much different attitude of heart than before. Do you think this change was superficial?

SUMMARY:

Joseph had become a man of high authority in the land that supposedly was the land of his enslavement. His brothers had no way of knowing what had become of him, yet by the providence of God they were reunited, but only in God's way in accordance with His will. The first meeting was one of overwhelming joy on the part of Joseph. The joy of meeting was withheld from the brothers until a later time. The second meeting was one of still greater joy when he saw his brother Benjamin. The third meeting was the occasion of Joseph's revelation to his brothers. These events led to the fulfillment of the dreams Joseph had many years before.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

June 13, 2021

Second Quarter

JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 42:1-9; 43:15-34; 44:1-17*

LESSON SETTING: Jacob about to send his sons to Egypt for food.

TIME: Approximately 1707 B.C.

I. JOSEPH MEETS HIS BROTHERS. Genesis 42:1-9

- A. Joseph, a type of Savior (vs. 6) Genesis 45:5
- B. Brothers recognized (vs. 7)
- C. Joseph not recognized (vs. 8) John 1:10; Acts 13:27

II. JOSEPH MEETS BENJAMIN. Genesis 43:15-34

- A. Special Favor (vs. 29) Romans 5:2; Colossians 1:26
- B. Brotherly Love (vs. 30) 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:22

III. JOSEPH TESTS HIS BROTHERS. Genesis 44:1-17

- A. The Test Prepared (vs. 1-5)
- B. The Test Given (vs. 6-12)
- C. Prophecy Fulfilled (vs. 14) Genesis 37:5-11
- D. Jesus' Tests of Discipleship. Luke 14:33; John 8:31; 14:15, 21; 15:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *GOD DID SEND ME BEFORE YOU TO PRESERVE LIFE.* Genesis 45:5

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 5:44-45

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 18:21-35

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

INTRODUCTION:

Joseph's brothers had years in which to consider their actions against their brother Joseph. They had also seen what their actions had done to their father. How often they must have wished to undo the harm done. Their hearts were not as hard now as they had been. They passed the test which their brother had felt was necessary to prove this. Now Joseph could contain himself no longer. The words used to describe his actions indicate that he took no joy in the discomfort of his brothers.

As he revealed himself, and before they realized that he did not want to exact revenge, many thoughts must have passed through their minds. Here before them stood one who knew of their guilt and had it in his power to give them their just desserts. It must have been hard for them to realize that they were to obtain mercy. Not only were they to be forgiven for the wrong that they did, but their lives were to be spared in the time when many would die of this terrible famine. For sometime they must have wondered whether this was really true.

How like a sinner before the living God! God certainly knows that we have sinned and that we deserve death, but we also can obtain not only forgiveness but spiritual provisions for our soul for eternity. We must "give up the place where we have lived" also. We must move to the place He has prepared for us. Just as obedience was necessary for the family of Joseph, so it is necessary for the soul which has tasted of God's mercy. It is a real blessing to know we are forgiven and to know that we can now and forever fellowship with God.

CENTRAL TRUTH: A child of God will demonstrate forbearance and forgiveness.

GOLDEN TEXT: *LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM WHICH DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU.*
Matthew 5:44

These words did not originate with man. They came directly from the heart of God through the lips of His Son whom He sent to suffer at the hands of the very ones He came to save. The words and the thought behind them are contrary to the very nature that is in selfish man. It is for this reason that man must take on the mind of Christ to please God. It is this love which made God provide a way of salvation for sinful man who deserved not to be saved but to die.

Why were they spoken? Not because anyone who curses or hates or persecutes deserves love, but that the life of Christ might not have been spent in vain. It is through this sort of love that sinful man begins to question his own actions and to realize that his ways are contrary to those of God. After seeing the true nature of God a man who persists in his own ways brings himself into greater condemnation. By taking upon ourselves the mind of Christ and returning good for evil we can often "preach" a far stronger sermon than we do with our lips. And often this action brings forth eternal fruit in the form of a seeking soul desirous of finding the true God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 14 – 20

- M. *Joseph Forgives His Brothers. Genesis 45:1-15
- T. Moses' Forgiveness. Numbers 12:1-13
- W. David's Forgiveness. 1 Samuel 24:1-10
- T. A Prayer for Forgiveness. Psalm 51:1-13
- F. God's Forgiveness. Lamentations 3:21-26, 31-34
- S. *A Standard of Forgiveness. Matthew 5:43-48
- S. Forgiveness: a Christian Requisite. Ephesians 4:22-32

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