

Passage: Genesis 42

Title: The Famine Upon the Land

Summary: For the people, it has been 7 years of plenty, hey let the good times roll, never knowing a famine was coming. How long into the famine before they realized this is serious. And little did they know, but it was 20 years prior that God had been preparing for this famine, and raising up Joseph to lead them through it. I wonder what God is doing today in my life, in your life, that is preparing for something 20 years down the road. What a chapter of comfort and confidence in our God whose hand is always upon us, working all things together for good!

Genesis more than history book / It is His-story

It all begins here in Genesis. In chapter 3 we will see the first mention of the Messiah who would be bruised for our iniquities (sin), chapter 5 the gospel laid out before us in the meaning of each name. We will see genealogy after genealogy, but they will all drop off until we come to just one genealogy, the genealogy leading up to the Messiah. This Old Testament, starting with Genesis, is more than the history of the children of Israel and Jewish Nation, this is His-story.

Theme of this Book – for this is why He had to come:

From Paradise to Prison – back to Paradise:

(Genesis 3:15 NKJV) And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

(Genesis 3:15 noted) And I (God) will put enmity (hostility/hatred) Between you (satan) and the woman (mankind), And between your seed (demons) and her Seed (Jesus); He (Jesus) shall bruise your (satan) head, And you (satan) shall bruise His (Jesus) heel."

Outline:

Part 1 – The History of Major World Events (chapters 1-11) (spanning 2000+ years)

- The Creation of the World and Man (1-2)
- The Fall of Man (3-5)
- The Flood of the World (6-9)
- The Tower of Babel: the Dispersion of Man (10-11)

Part 2 – The History of the Major Families (chapters 12-50) (spanning approximately 350 years)

- The Life of Abraham (11-25)
- The Life of Isaac (25-26)
- The Life of Jacob (27-36)
- The Life of Joseph (36-50)

Life of Joseph / 25% of Genesis is Joseph / Creation - Fall - Flood - Fathers

Genesis 37 we now move into a new section, the life of Joseph. We will still see Jacob all the way until the end of the Book of Genesis, but the central person to the end will be Joseph. Joseph is a fascinating study, no doubt intended by God to be. Twenty-five percent of the Book of Genesis deals with Joseph. The book of the beginning of the universe, beginning of man, the fall of man, major world events such as the flood and tower of Babel, patriarch fathers that are the lineage of the Messiah who will bring man back into paradise, yet Joseph gets 25% of the print.

Joseph not Line of Messiah

Now Jesus does not come through the lineage of Joseph, He comes through Joseph's brother Judah.

Studying Joseph - See more Jesus / See Life Devoted to God / All Things Work for Good

Studying Joseph will help us see more of Jesus, for in the Scriptures Joseph is a picture, a type, an illustration of Jesus Christ. We have a wonderful example of a man sold out for God the Father. He will show us that it can be done, and that God will be there with us all along the way. We will see that even in what looks like disaster God is working all things together for good:

(Romans 8:28 NKJV) And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

(Genesis 50:20 NKJV) "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Shows Us / Lets Cut the Lines - Go for It / Finish Well

Joseph shows us that it can be done, a life sold out for God. Christian, let's go for it, let's cut the lines, put the sails up, and let's live this Christian life to its fullest. Christian we only get one shot at this down here, let's go for it, let's not look back and wish and regret. Let us finish with power, and let us finish well:

(Hebrews 12:1 NKJV) Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

(Hebrews 12:2 NKJV) looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*(1 Corinthians 9:24 NKJV) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? **Run in such a way that you may obtain it.***

(1 Corinthians 9:25 NKJV) And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.

Recap Joseph's Life

Here is a brief synopsis of the story up to this point. Jacob had twelve sons by four different wives.

Rachel, the wife that he loved dearly, bore him two sons; because of his love for her, they became his favorite sons. Their names were Joseph and Benjamin and they were the youngest of the twelve boys. The sons of Jacob, except Joseph, were not honorable. There developed a friction between the boys because of the dishonor of the older sons and the honor of Joseph. The older boys were treacherous and cruel; but, Joseph was compassionate. They were jealous of Joseph, of his father's obvious favoritism.

Joseph had a couple of dreams, which made his brothers angry. He dreamed that he and his brother's were out in the field binding their sheaves of barley and his brother's sheaves all bowed down to his. This really upset them, thinking they would bow to Joseph.

Later he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him. His father sent Joseph out into the area of Dothan where his brother's were keeping the flock to find out how they were doing and when they saw Joseph coming, they said, "Here comes that dreamer, let's kill him and we will see what happens to his dreams then." The oldest brother Reuben said, "No, let's not kill him; because, we don't want to get our hands bloody. Let's throw him in the pit and let him starve to death."

As Joseph arrived they threw him into the pit and he begged them for mercy, and asked them to let him out, but they just had no heart for him whatsoever. When they saw a caravan heading toward Egypt, Judah suggested maybe they should sell him as a slave. That way they wouldn't have to kill him, yet, they could get rid of him.

They stopped the caravan and sold their brother Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was taken by these traders to Egypt where he was auctioned and bought by a man whose name was Potiphar, captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph, while in Egypt, was a diligent, faithful servant in the house of Potiphar. Potiphar was blessed because of Joseph's diligence; but, his wife cast lustful eyes upon Joseph and sought to seduce him. When Joseph refused to be seduced, she grabbed him by the coat, tried to disrobe him and force him into bed. He fled from the house leaving the coat in her hand and she, being scorned, began to cry out rape! rape! and reported to the servants and later to her husband that Joseph had attempted to rape her.

As a result Joseph was thrown into jail. He was seventeen years old at the time that his brothers sold him as a slave into Egypt. Just how long he was a servant in Potiphar's house we don't know.

While he was in prison he had charge over all of the other prisoners. During that time Pharaoh's butler and baker were cast into prison because they had come into disfavor with Pharaoh. Both of them had dreams which Joseph interpreted, in which the butler was to be restored to his position, and the baker was to be hung. The dreams both came to pass.

Joseph said, "When you come into the Pharaoh, don't forget me, tell him about me," but the butler forgot Joseph. He remained for another two years in the prison until the Pharaoh had a dream. He called his wise men and magicians in to interpret the dream for him, and to tell him what it meant; but, they were unable to do so. Suddenly, the RNA began to buzz in the brain of this butler and he said, "Oh king, I have done a horrible thing. There is a man of the Hebrews, he is in prison and he is able to interpret dreams. The baker and I both had dreams and he interpreted them and it came to pass as he said."

They ordered Joseph to be brought quickly and he shaved and came in before the Pharaoh. Pharaoh said, "I understand that you can interpret dreams and Joseph said, "Not really, but, God is able to give Pharaoh an answer of peace."

The Pharaoh told Joseph the dreams of the seven cows being eaten up by the seven skinny cows and Joseph said, "God has told you that there will be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine which will be so great that the lean years will eat up the fat. Point a wise man over the kingdom during the good years, gather 20% of the crops, put them into store houses, so that when the lean years come, you will be able to distribute to the people and you will be saved."

Pharaoh said, "I can not find a wiser man in all the kingdom than you, because only you were able to tell me what the dream meant." He took his signet ring and gave it to Joseph and said, "You are in charge, only I am above you in the land." He ordered that when Joseph went out in the chariots, that the people would go in front of him crying out, "Bow down!"

During the seven years of plenty, he gathered into the storehouses until they lost count of the abundance of grain. Let's continue the story with Genesis, chapter forty-two, and look at the years of famine.

Outline: Genesis 42

- The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)
- The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)
- God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)
- The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)
- Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)

(Genesis 42:1 NKJV) When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

Rueben Sandwich

The brothers are looking at each other, all extremely hungry, I wouldn't want the name Rueben during a famine, the brothers might be thinking sauerkraut, corn beef, thousand island dressing, on toasted rye bread.

(Genesis 42:2 NKJV) And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

Sound Familiar / We're Doomed – Disaster Imminent / Abundance – Joy / 20 yrs Preparing

that we may live and not die - Sound familiar? Ohh things are so terrible, my life is doomed; we literally have no idea what God has prepared for us. God has prepared provisions for them, yet they do not know it. God does the same for us; how many times we thought disaster is imminent, and then we see God's hand was upon the situation way before we even knew there was a situation. For the people, 7 years of plenty, hey let the good times roll, never considering a famine was coming. Or when the famine began, ohh the rains will come, I wonder how long into the famine before they realized this is serious. But it was 20 years prior that God had been preparing for this famine. I wonder what God is doing today in my life, in your life, that is preparing for something 20 years down the road. Praise your God, rejoice that He is your God, He is worthy of all praise.

Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is probably the most known passage of Scripture, but most forgotten until a death, when it speaks of a now and a today (He Leads – He is With – He Follows) us all of our days:

(Psalms 23:1 NKJV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*(Psalms 23:2 NKJV) He makes me to lie down in green pastures; **He leads** me beside the still waters.*

*(Psalms 23:3 NKJV) He restores my soul; **He leads** me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake.*

*(Psalms 23:4 NKJV) Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; **For You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

*(Psalms 23:5 NKJV) You prepare a table **before me** in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over.*

*(Psalms 23:6 NKJV) Surely goodness and mercy **shall follow me** All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.*

(Genesis 42:3 NKJV) So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

(Genesis 42:4 NKJV) But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."

Benjamin Mid-20's

I wonder if it was because he was the youngest of the 12 brothers, but he was no baby, he is in his mid-20's at this time, or maybe because Jacob had some suspicions about what happened to Joseph, don't know but interesting to ponder.

(Genesis 42:5 NKJV) And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

Not a Local Famine

Last chapter we saw that the famine affected all the lands, it wasn't local to Egypt. To bad today, famines are localized, there are people starving in worlds around us, but it doesn't effect us, so it doesn't affect us. May God move in our hearts that it will affect us.

The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)

(Genesis 42:6 NKJV) Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

Dream Comes to Pass

The dream comes to pass:

(Genesis 37:5 NKJV) Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

(Genesis 37:6 NKJV) So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:

(Genesis 37:7 NKJV) "There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."

(Genesis 37:8 NKJV) And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

God Will Move Whole World

Christian, God keeps his promises. If he has to move the whole world, To bring a promise to pass, he will. whether it's Joseph or you. God will move the whole world to bring it to pass.

All the promises of God are yes and amen, and therefore, He has never failed on one promise to any one person in all of mankind in all of man time. All of his promises have come to pass. Will come to pass. Because they demonstrate his character and his nature that his word reigns supreme.

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

Joseph Oversees Selling / Price gouging / Spies

It is interesting that Joseph oversees all the selling. Why, probably he oversees all the selling to assure people are fed and not bled. We see it around us when hurricanes and the like strike, people take the opportunity to rip people off. Joseph probably is assuring that no one is coming in and buying large portions so they can start their own distribution center at a 200% mark-up. No one had the wisdom and discernment like Joseph, so he is making sure no wolves are coming in; and also we will see that no spies come into the land and try to take food by force.

Jesus Bread of Life

Also, do you see Joseph, a picture of Jesus. He is giving out the bread of life to all who would come, no one will be cast out:

(John 6:35 NKJV) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

(John 6:36 NKJV) "But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe."

(John 6:37 NKJV) "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

God Loves You!

God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)

(Genesis 42:7 NKJV) Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

(Genesis 42:8 NKJV) So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

13+7+20 / Joseph about 37 or so

It was thirteen years from the time he was sold by his brothers till the time that he was appointed over the land and then we have the seven good years until the famine began. His brothers probably came down at the end of the first year of famine; so, a time lapse of approximately twenty-one years between Joseph being sold by his brothers and meeting them again. By the time they came down to Egypt to buy grain, Joseph is thirty-seven or thirty-eight years old, so they would not recognize Joseph now that he is a man.

And Joseph is dressed and shaven as an Egyptian. And, surely they did not expect to see him as number two in the land, so they cant see what they don't expect.

Spoke Roughly

Verse 7 - and spoke roughly to them - this word roughly is the Hebrew word: qasheh, kaw-sheh'; severe (in various applications):--churlish, cruel, grievous, hard ([-hearted], thing), heavy, + impudent, obstinate, prevailed, rough (-ly), sore, sorrowful, stiff ([-necked]), stubborn, + in trouble.

Joseph very Direct / Why? / Last Encounter – Ben – Dad / Their Heart / Confession

Joseph isn't speaking nicely, tenderly, ohh I don't want to upset you. Joseph is being very direct with them, very heavy, severe words. Why? Joseph's last encounter with them they threw him in a pit, and

then sold him for profit. They turned on their own flesh and blood. Joseph has to be wondering where their hearts are; what did they tell dad about that day, did they make something up that made me look like a jerk, like I ran off with some pagan girl, or overdosed on drugs, was drunk driving and hit a tree. What about Benjamin, did they kill him? What about dad, how are they treating him? So Joseph is seeing what is in their heart. Joseph we will see is truly revealing what is in their heart, they will finally confess amongst themselves that what they did was wrong:

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

Meekness

Look at the meekness of Joseph. What is meekness, but power under control? He has the power to crush those who were once his enemies. And yet instead, he's shown this compassion, generosity, and kindness. Nothing that resembles revenge. What a picture of a man who has been shaped and melded by God over these 20 years. And what a picture for us. If you're a person who has a position of power, whether it's the workplace or some other way, what a picture Joseph gives us, but it comes down to relational as well. When someone has wronged you and you have the full power and ability upon them, and yet you showed this great compassion, that is amazing, Christ-likeness.

Sometimes it takes extreme adversity to soften our hearts, because it's so easy to have hard hearts in our lives, and God in his greatness will let the adversity come, so that he can break us down, because when our hearts become hard, it takes the softening word of God. And the oil of the Holy Spirit, to soften our heart. to make it pliable again, that God's Word can penetrate his love and sink in, and then emanate from, and sometimes only extreme adversity can bring us to that place.

Look at the power of God puts in place Joseph for 13 years, feast for 7. Now it brings a famine for another seven, he has totally controlled the weather for what will be a total of 14 years with power our God has, what power he is. And imagine if he can do that for 14 years for the whole world, what he can do for 14 years in your life, in my life. 14 months or 14 days. Just give ourselves on the him God Almighty, do something mighty in my life.

Joseph Seminary is 20 years, and we might go, no, it was 13, falsely accused, and imprisoned after being betrayed, but the fact of the matter is, those seven years are plenty, who greatly determine seven years of famine. Because we need to be disciplined in how to walk with Lord and stay faithful to the Lord and with the Lord during the time of prosperity because that is very often the time that people walk away. It's the time that people go lukewarm, because they have no need of the Lord, but Joseph, through all those 7 years of plenty, we can tell, because of how he handles the 7 years of famine, was faithful, and continued to seek the Lord, because he prepared, and provided the provision. of what was next to come, and we see it in the life of Joseph that when his famine came, he did not think it strange, the fiery trial that had come upon him. He had expected it. But many of people, when they don't know how to handle the feast, and they take it for granted, when the famine comes, they question God. They challenge him. They ask him where he is. They say, I can't follow you if you're not gonna bless me abundantly. Why are you doing these things to me? I thought you loved me. And here Joseph, he knows this is all part of the plan, and therefore he prepared for it, and now he is the man for it. And so to reach in every one of us, part of seminary and the training God has for us is in the plentiful times and not just the hard times. How will we react when the plenty times come? Will we be as faithful and drawing near as when we were in the hard times?

Training Ground / Study Lives of godly Bible People

I don't know if you realize it but this study on the life of Joseph is also a "training course on leadership. Save your money on conferences and seminars on how to be a leader in ministry, in your home, in your community, and study the life lessons of godly men such as Joseph, Moses, Peter, Paul, and of course Jesus. We have seen some great leadership examples and principles in the life of Joseph in the past few chapters; we saw him keep ministering even after he was burned, he ministers for the glory of God, and his continual ministering brought blessings upon his own life and eventually his family.

Hardest Area of Ministry - Correction - Being Direct / Great Disservice

One of the hardest areas in ministry is the area of correcting or rebuking someone; of speaking to them very frankly. Nobody likes to do it, therefore for the most part we don't, and we do our fellow brothers or the lost a great disservice.

Told the Facts / So can Correct / Conditioned Today no Bible Thumping / Rom 10:15

Christian, sometimes people need to be told the facts so they can see their wrong and turn from it, repent (as do we). They need to see that they may think they are getting away with it, but others see right through them. Today we are afraid to speak frankly to people because we are afraid to upset them, or they will call us judgemental, legalistic. We have been conditioned that that is Bible thumping; that love never upsets, love is never blunt, love never makes a person uncomfortable, that love is never frank, direct. The Scripture gives us this responsibility (for both the unsaved and the brethren):

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

(Romans 10:13 NKJV) For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

(Romans 10:14 NKJV) How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

(Romans 10:15 NKJV) And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!"

Contrary to Scriptures / John Baptist / Rough Category

Saying we are not to correct, or rebuke is contrary to the Scriptures (whether saved or unsaved); there is John the Baptist to the "religious" people, the Pharisees and Sadducees. First words of his public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 3:1 NKJV) In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

(Matthew 3:2 NKJV) and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

(Matthew 3:7 NKJV) But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

(Matthew 3:8 NKJV) "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,

(Matthew 3:9 NKJV) "and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(Matthew 3:10 NKJV) "And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Matthew 3:11 NKJV) "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(Matthew 3:12 NKJV) "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Brood of vipers, I say that falls into the "speaking roughly" category.

Jesus 1st Words / Can't build a Church

Jesus' first words in His public ministry was repent:

(Matthew 4:17 NKJV) From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Jesus you can't build a church off that message; cappuccino bar and sermons filled with lots of stories and jokes, that is the way to do it.

Jesus – Sodom / Politically Correct

Jesus had some harsh words for those who did not repent, he likened them to the people of Sodom, which really isn't politically correct:

(Matthew 11:20 NKJV) Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent:

(Matthew 11:21 NKJV) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
(Matthew 11:22 NKJV) "But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.
(Matthew 11:23 NKJV) "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.
(Matthew 11:24 NKJV) **"But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."**

Disciples Sent to Preach Repentance

The disciples were sent to preach a message of repentance:

(Mark 6:12 NKJV) *So they went out and preached **that people should repent.***

Disciple means "sent one", who does Jesus send today?

Peters 1st Sermon

Peter's first sermon was a message of repentance:

(Acts 2:34 NKJV) *"For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,
(Acts 2:35 NKJV) Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."
(Acts 2:36 NKJV) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
(Acts 2:37 NKJV) **Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart,** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
(Acts 2:38 NKJV) Then Peter said to them, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 2:39 NKJV) "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
(Acts 2:40 NKJV) And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
(Acts 2:41 NKJV) Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
(Acts 2:42 NKJV) And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Stephen's Sermon

Stephen's message he preached which resulted in his stoning was a call for repentance. He called the people "stiff-necked and uncircumcised", I say that falls into the "roughly" speaking category:

(Acts 7:49 NKJV) *"Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?
(Acts 7:50 NKJV) Has My hand not made all these things?"
(Acts 7:51 NKJV) **"You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.**
(Acts 7:52 NKJV) "Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,
(Acts 7:53 NKJV) "who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."
(Acts 7:54 NKJV) **When they heard these things they were cut to the heart,** and they gnashed at him with their teeth.
(Acts 7:55 NKJV) But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
(Acts 7:56 NKJV) and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"
(Acts 7:57 NKJV) Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord;
(Acts 7:58 NKJV) and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.
(Acts 7:59 NKJV) And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
(Acts 7:60 NKJV) Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Paul on Mars Hill

Paul's preaching on Mars Hill was a message of repentance:

(Acts 17:30 NKJV) *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now commands all men everywhere to repent,**
(Acts 17:31 NKJV) "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
(Acts 17:32 NKJV) And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."
(Acts 17:33 NKJV) So Paul departed from among them.
(Acts 17:34 NKJV) However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.*

3 Responses at Mars Hill / Peter 3000 – Stephen Stoned / Cut to Heart

When Paul preached that message, some believed, some mocked, and some said, "I need to think more about this". Those are the common responses today. Interesting, Peter's sermon and Stephan's sermons really were not that different. The outcome was greatly different, for 3,000 got saved at Peter's message, but Stephen got stoned to death. In both sermons it says that the people were cut to the heart. One group cut at the heart for repentance, the other cut at the heart for retaliation.

Conditioned Today no Preaching

Today we are conditioned by Christians, and even from the pulpit, well if they retaliated against you, then you did something wrong, you shoved it down their throat. That statement is contrary to what we see in the Scriptures. Jesus was standing, ready to receive Stephen; Jesus was not upset with Him.

How about a Wayward Christian / 2 Tim 3

How about when it is correction to a brother or sister that is living contrary to the word? Now I am surely not saying let's become sin sniffers, I am surely not saying let not show grace, let's jump on every sin, and let's make sure it is set right; no not by any means. The Scripture gives us a responsibility:

(2 Timothy 3:16 NKJV) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

(2 Timothy 3:17 NKJV) that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(2 Timothy 4:1 NKJV) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

(2 Timothy 4:2 NKJV) Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

(2 Timothy 4:3 NKJV) For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

(2 Timothy 4:4 NKJV) and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Reproof means to correct with the purpose of restoration.

Won't come back to Church

People are afraid that they will offend them, or they will not come back to the church; people leave the church for all kinds of reasons, that is just the way it is, don't be in fear of that:

There was a man who was stranded on a desert island for many, many years. One day, while strolling along the beach, he spotted a ship in the distance. This had never happened in all the time he was on the island, so he was very excited about the chance of being rescued.

Immediately, he built a fire on the beach and generated as much smoke as possible. It worked! Soon, the ship was heading his way. When the ship was close enough to the island, a dinghy was dispatched to investigate the situation. The man on the island was overjoyed with the chance to be rescued and met his saviors as they landed.

After some preliminary conversation the man in charge asked the man on the island how he had survived for so many years. The man replied by telling of his exploits for food and how he was able to make a fine house to live in. In fact, the man said, "You can see my home from here. It's up there on the ridge."

He pointed the men in the direction of his home. They looked up and saw three buildings. They inquired about the building next to the man's house and he replied, "That's my church - I go there to worship on Sundays."

When asked about the third building, the man replied, "That's where I used to go to church."

2 Principles / Key 1 – Spirit – Discernment & Wisdom

We can learn 2 very important principles in this study of having to speak frankly when needed. First, in life of Joseph, this is Key #1, in the last chapter what was said about Joseph? In whom is the Spirit of God, there is no one as discerning and wise:

(Genesis 41:38 NKJV) And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"

(Genesis 41:39 NKJV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you."

Must be Filled – Must be One / Sure Led – Clear Discernment / Prayer & Fellowship

You must be filled with the Spirit if you are going to speak frankly to anyone about their sin in their life.

You must be at one with the Lord, you have to be sure that you are led by the Lord to do this, and that He has clearly given you discernment and wisdom in the matter, and that can only come through much prayer and fellowship with the Lord.

Know the Word – back It / When in Doubt / Error on Grace

You had better know your Word too, and be ready to back it up. I will tell you my personal approach; when in doubt, don't! If I am not fully confident that the Lord is leading me to speak to that person then I don't. If I am not fully sure of my facts, then I don't. Good ministry principle, always error on the side of grace when you are not sure.

2nd / Heart of Stephen / Charge them Not / Any Bitterness – Anger – Don't

Secondly, you must do it with the heart that Stephen had, a heart of love. What, Stephen called them stiff-necked and uncircumcised; you call that love, yes. Stephen brought them the words of life, in love, while giving it to them straight up and very frankly. When they stoned him, he said do not charge them with this sin. That message, was given in love, even to the point of death. If you have any anger, bitterness, or hatred in your heart about that person, then I would error on the side of grace and remain silent.

Sometimes we have to / Depart from Me / Fruit Inspectors / Life not in line w/ Words

Sometimes we have to speak frankly to people, they have to hear it. There are some people deceived into thinking they are right-on with God, yet for them they will hear those terrible words, "depart from Me, I never knew you." Love tells them, I am not judging you, but your life does not line up with your words:

(Matthew 7:16 NKJV) "You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?"

(Matthew 7:17 NKJV) "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

(Matthew 7:18 NKJV) "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

(Matthew 7:19 NKJV) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

(Matthew 7:20 NKJV) "Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

(Matthew 7:21 NKJV) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

(Matthew 7:22 NKJV) "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?"

(Matthew 7:23 NKJV) "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

(Matthew 7:24 NKJV) "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

(Matthew 7:25 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

(Matthew 7:26 NKJV) "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

(Matthew 7:27 NKJV) "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Paul to Church in Corinth

Paul laid it out to the church in Corinth, and at first it was not received, but after they pondered it, they repented and came back into sweet fellowship with the Lord and each other. So to we can hope that will be the resultant for us:

(2 Corinthians 7:8 NKJV) For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while.

(2 Corinthians 7:9 NKJV) Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing.

(2 Corinthians 7:10 NKJV) For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death

Doubt you'll be Stoned

And if they do not receive it, I doubt you'll be stoned for it, but you can take the comfort in knowing that you reached out to them in love.

Discernment

Sometimes that discernment God gives will tell you,

- They know, and they know that you know, right now they need to be loved, with no words.
- Not right now, I am getting ready to do something.
- Or, say nothing, they do not have ears to hear, move on.
- And sometimes, God will say you are my vessel, speak. You may get to be a Nathan (2 Samuel 12:7), King David, you are that man. And you know the story, King David says (verse 13), I have sinned against God.

Correction, speaking frankly, directly, is hard stuff and it must be bathed in much prayer and soaked in love.

(Genesis 42:9 NKJV) Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

Spies Would Come

Joseph, being a wise man knew that hard times bring out evil men, people who would rather steal and kill, then work and pay. So his accusation against his brothers would not be out of character, and the brothers would know that.

Spying is a capital crime, meaning the death penalty. You have to think what these boys are hearing. I'm accusing you of something worthy of life imprisonment or death.

Pause in Recognizing the Dream / Busy about Master's Business / Draw to Him

Joseph recognized them in verse 7 as they are bowing down to him, he starts this drawing out process with them, and then he remembers the dream he had about them. I love that about Joseph, he was always busy about his masters business, and he wasn't always thinking of himself. It is a key to life, be busy about the Fathers Business, and you will find yourself living above all the things that will depress you and pull you down in this world. It took 20 years for this dream to come to pass, and here it is, but it immediately doesn't pop in his mind. When God gives you a calling, a vision, a Word for your life, He wants that calling to draw us to Him, not that calling, dream, or Word.

Don't Day Dream / Look for the Giver of Dreams - not the Dream

He doesn't want us dreaming about the dream, spending all our time looking for the vision, or listening for the call. Joseph doesn't recognize the dream at first because He was busy about his Master's business. Joseph was no longer looking for the dream, but the giver of the dream.

Why the Dream? / Something to Hold on To / I can't Sin - Still to Yet to Come

Why then does He give us dream, visions, and Words? He gives them to us so that we have something to hold on to in when the times get tough. When that temptation comes before us, Joseph come lie with me, our hearts will say I cannot do such wickedness, for He is Holy, and the Holy One has called me; He has a calling upon my life. Yet when we do fall down, when we say, that's it I quit, God will bring that vision, that dream, that Word back before our minds and say the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable, pick it back up and lets move on. When all seems so lost and desperate, God brings that dream back before our minds and reminds us that it must still come to pass, therefore this cannot be the end.

(Genesis 42:10 NKJV) And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.

(Genesis 42:11 NKJV) "We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."

Some Honesty! / Think Self Nice / Vote 10-1 / God's Word

Honest men they call themselves; they leave out the dishonest actions of selling Joseph off and then deceiving their father Jacob. People can think they are nice guys, there actions may be in-line with the popular vote (the vote was 10-1 to sell Joseph) but God's word is the mirror to how we are doing.

(Genesis 42:12 NKJV) But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."

(Genesis 42:13 NKJV) And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."

(Genesis 42:14 NKJV) But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'

(Genesis 42:15 NKJV) "In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.

(Genesis 42:16 NKJV) "Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"

Is Benjamin Alright?

Joseph had to wonder if they had brought harm to his little brother Benjamin.

So Joseph gets key piece of information here when they say that their younger brother is at home with that. So now he knows that they didn't kill Benjamin, like they killed him because they were the favored sons because of the favored wife, Rachel. So he's processing a lot of things right here. And he holds it together, which is an indication, the spirit upon him, that he can continue, to keep processing all these things, even when, um, they're very deep things, he's holding his composure.

(Genesis 42:17 NKJV) So he put them all together in prison three days.

(Genesis 42:18 NKJV) Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:

(Genesis 42:19 NKJV) "If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.

(Genesis 42:20 NKJV) "And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

Joseph Care for the Others in the Family

I think one of the reasons that Joseph holds one and sends 9 rather than the other way around is that he's using a total of nine to provide the provision to take care of the family back in the land. Just a picture of his great compassion, that even after he's been wrong, he still wants to take care of all of his brother's families, that if only one traveled with a sack of wheat, it would have been greatly diminished provisions for the need of so many, that we would read later than 70+ would come down to Egypt when this is all over, that's a lot of grain for a lot of people to feed.

Life on 3rd Day

Again we see this theme of the 3rd day as we study Joseph. Life comes on the 3rd day, do this and live Joseph says to them.

(1 Corinthians 15:3 NKJV) For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

(1 Corinthians 15:4 NKJV) and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

Life only comes to us on the 3rd day, the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Didn't Expect to See Them that Day / Never Know - Stay in Devotion

It had been 20+ years since Joseph had last seen his brothers, he would have at least thought that at some point I will see them again, for they will have to come to Egypt like the rest of the people to buy grain. But, it is highly doubtful that Joseph knew that it would be that day, in this place. How important it is to stay in the Word, to have your daily time with the Lord, so that you will be prepared for the unexpected. We never know what the day may hold for us;

- it may be the day that the boss says we need to talk, how will you handle that?
- It may be the day that that person says, what is this Jesus thing all about?
- It may be the day that shocking news comes to you, how will you handle it?
- It may be the day that she grabs your robe and says come lie with me.
- It may be the day that your worse enemy comes with a full-on attack upon you, either in word or deed.

We must be prepared every day, for the unexpected, make sure you have your armour on, you know the commercial, life comes at you fast, and you are going to need more than Allstate:

(Ephesians 6:10 NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(Ephesians 6:11 NKJV) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(Ephesians 6:12 NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 6:13 NKJV) Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

I think one of the best ways to put on the armor of God is to sit before Him quietly before the day starts and remember He leads us, is with us, and follows us (Psalm 23).

New Direction 3rd Day / God Spoke in those 3 Days

We see that after 3 days, Joseph has a new direction for them. First he said all of you will be imprisoned, and one will go get your brother, but after 3 days he says that only one will stay in prison while the rest of you go. God must have spoke to him, and spoke very directly, because Joseph had the fear of God in him over this matter. God must have been very direct with him about letting all go and only 1 remain. Maybe Joseph had some bitterness, revenge, in his heart and God showed him his heart, and Joseph repented and followed the Lord's will (don't know, but his mind was definitely changed after 3 days, and God was the reason for the change of mind).

Ok to Wait / Think it Through - Pray it Through / Saves Mistakes

Christian, we do not have to immediately have all the answers and all the directions for everything in our lives (that includes at work, at home, or at church and ministry), even if we had a time of fellowship and devotion that morning with the Lord. Not only is it ok, it is a good practice (as seen here) to do so. So often we feel that we have to have all the answers and know the right things to do because we are Christians, that isn't so, it is ok to say, I will think these things through, I will seek the Lord on these things and get back to you. You will find yourself avoiding a lot of waste and mistakes by doing so. God puts things in our lives like these situation, so we will come to Him, so we will slow down and seek Him.

(Genesis 42:21 NKJV) Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."

(Genesis 42:22 NKJV) And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

(Genesis 42:23 NKJV) But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

(Genesis 42:24 NKJV) And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

His Blood Upon Us

Verse 22- Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us - As Joseph cried from the pit, they went on their way; they knew their guilt. Interesting when Jesus was betrayed, and brought before the people, Pilate said what will you have me do with this man, and they cried crucify Him, let His blood be upon us: *(Matthew 27:24 NKJV)* When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

(Matthew 27:25 NKJV) And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

God Working in Brothers Too / Maybe Justified It / God will Bring it About

We see that Joseph's dream is fulfilled, after 20 years it comes to past. But God is not only working in Joseph's life, He was working in these 10 brothers life also. Through this testing, they came to a place of confession, of acknowledging their guilt. They may have justified at some point, convinced each other it was the right thing to do, but now they are face to face with it and acknowledge their wrong. Sometimes that is what God will do with us, we can come confess, or he will bring about the confession, it is always easier to come to Him:

(1 John 1:9 NKJV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Guilty Conscience

Here they come that this is happening because what they did to Joseph 20 plus years ago and how deep and fitting the points being made for all of us is how long a guilty conscience can haunt us, follow us. and imprison us of the freedom of repentance and confession 20 years later, they all agree just because what we did to Joseph.

Hebrews 10:19–25 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the

confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We come before the Lord. We say, Lord, forgive me for what I've done to that person. I was wrong in what I did. I've heard them. I'm harmed them. Thank you for revealing it to me of what I've done. I'm not gonna hide it anymore. I'm not going to try to justify it. I was wrong. I confess my sin before you. And ask you, Lord, to cleanse me from all unrighteousness, and then, Lord, I now ask you as well. Open up the door that I can go to them and say to them, forgive me for what I've done to you. I know I've heard you, but I'm asking you to forgive me, and I'd like to have reconciliation with you, and may I add, if they reject your request for forgiveness, it's now between them and the Lord, you are free. You've done what God's asked you to do. You move on. You don't say, see. I knew they were a bad person. You need to give them time to let God work on their heart and healing to begin from the grace of God. Because he needs to work in their heart that's been wounded because of what you've done to them.

And once again, the freest man in the story is Joseph, who simply yields to the hand of God in his life. Accepts the place that he's in, gets up and serves even through being betrayed, being slandered, being misrepresented, falsely accused, yet he lives in the freedom that I'm in the hand of God. And here we have a wife of the ruler. She's not living in freedom, and she's living for the things of the world, and then these 10 brothers, no freedom, they have had 20 plus years of living in their own tents with their own wives, with their own children, free to move about the land, and yet here they are. Every day, looking in each other, knowing what they have done, and living in the prison of it, when they could have simply repented before the Lord, and at least been free before the Lord, and then beg the Lord for a day that they could possibly see Joseph again, even if it meant going down to Egypt to try to find him to buy him back out of the slavery. But they didn't, and now they're buried under their guilt. They never lived freely for 20+ years, and neither will you or I, if we don't come and say, Lord, forgive me for what I've done, and then seek reconciliation with whom I've done it too.

If You can Get Away with It

If you can get away with your sin, without the Lord chastening you, then I would be worried if I was truly His.

(Hebrews 12:5 NKJV) And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

(Hebrews 12:6 NKJV) For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

(Hebrews 12:7 NKJV) If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

(Hebrews 12:8 NKJV) But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

Picture of Jesus / Chance to be Free from Guilt / We Have an Advocate

Now Joseph here is a picture of Jesus, and here Joseph is giving them an opportunity after 20 years of carrying this guilt and shame around, that they may be released from it and walk in the freedom of knowing that they are forgiven. 20 years is along time to carry guilt, it will eat you alive. Christian God says you are forgiven, He says it to you today, Paid in full by your Advocate (1 John 2:1-2).

You Can be Free Today / Abortion - Divorce - Hurt Loved One

You need not live in your guilt and shame, for He says "forgiven". Maybe you had an abortion, maybe you were promiscuous, made you ruined your marriage, maybe you have hurt loved one, hurt the innocent, whatever it may be, God says forgiven, go and sin no more.

(John 8:9 NKJV) Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

(John 8:10 NKJV) When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

*(John 8:11 NKJV) She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "**Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.**"*

Maybe need to Ask Person - God

Maybe you need to go and ask forgiveness for someone, maybe you need to go to the Lord and hear Him assure you that you are forgiven. If you want to talk and pray with someone, then talk to someone tonight and we will pray with you.

The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)

(Genesis 42:25 NKJV) Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.

(Genesis 42:26 NKJV) So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.

(Genesis 42:27 NKJV) But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.

(Genesis 42:28 NKJV) So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"

Can't Buy Forgiveness - Grace

Heehee, Joseph is probably just enjoying himself with this one. Actually, it is a good picture of we cannot buy forgiveness, it is given to us through love. Joseph a beautiful picture of Jesus Christ:

(Ephesians 2:8 NKJV) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

(Ephesians 2:9 NKJV) not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Blame it on God

Verse 28 - What is this that God has done to us?" - The ole blame my sin and mistake on God. A person is sowing and sowing with no regard to God and His word, but then when the reaping comes they immediately say God how could you do this to me. I'm struggling financially, God where are you how could you allow this, yet there was never the trust to tithe. God how could you allow my girlfriend/boyfriend to dump me, yet all the while they were unfaithful in their purity. I treated my brother like trash, and now I am all alone, God how could you. God how could you, you fill in the blank_____.

(Genesis 42:29 NKJV) Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:

(Genesis 42:30 NKJV) "The man who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.

(Genesis 42:31 NKJV) "But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.

(Genesis 42:32 NKJV) 'We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'

(Genesis 42:33 NKJV) "Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.

(Genesis 42:34 NKJV) 'And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"

Retell the Story – The Man / Just like Israel – A Man / Missed their Salvation

They retell the story to their father, and they retell it calling Joseph (the man). They only recognized Joseph as another man, just as the so many of the people of Israel did when Jesus walked the earth 2000 years ago. They looked at him as just a man, they did not recognize Him as their brother, as the One sent from their Father, their deliverer, the one who would give them life.

Still Today / Gentile Appearance – OT vs NT

In large part today, the children of Israel still do not recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah. You know it is interesting, Joseph was dressed as an Egyptian, that aided in their not recognizing Him, for their minds could not look past the Gentile appearance. Today, the same still holds true for the most part in that most Jew will not recognize the New Testament, they will not even pick it up to see if the claims of Christ could possible be true. The NT is written in Greek originally, the OT written in Hebrew (some Aramaic); Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people, and Greek was the language of the non-Jewish people, so still to this day a Jewish person believes that the Hebrew text is the only acceptable text.

Recognize at 2nd Coming

They will not recognize Joseph until the second trip to Egypt:

(Acts 7:11 NKJV) "Now a famine and great trouble came over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and our fathers found no sustenance.

(Acts 7:12 NKJV) "But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

(Acts 7:13 NKJV) "And the second time Joseph was made known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to the Pharaoh.

Still Today / Students of Word – God not done with Israel / Romans 11

So to will it be with the Jewish people (for the most part), they will not recognize their Messiah until His Second Coming. So, Christian, be good student of the word, know that God is not done with the Nation of Israel. Many teachers of the word over the years, and even today, think that God cast Israel off once they rejected the Jesus, but God says otherwise, and he even shows us a picture here in the story of Joseph. Romans, we are told not to be ignorant about the Nation Israel, God is not done with them:

(Romans 11:25 NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

(Romans 11:26 NKJV) And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

(Romans 11:27 NKJV) For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Lasts Days – All will See

There will come a time when all of Israel will see, we missed Him, Jesus was and is the Messiah, and all of Israel will be saved. We know from the Scriptures that will be in the last days:

(Revelation 12:13 NKJV) Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.

(Revelation 12:14 NKJV) But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

(Ezekiel 39:22 NKJV) "So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day forward.....

(Ezekiel 39:28 NKJV) 'then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.

(Ezekiel 39:29 NKJV) 'And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,' says the Lord GOD."

We Live Exciting Times / Prophetic Timepiece / Rapture Near

We live in such exciting days, we live in days of the rebirth of Israel. When Israel was without a homeland, which is why many good Bible teachers said God must be done with them, but we have been given the real life interpretation right before our eyes. We get to see it most every day on the nightly news. Christian keep and eye on Israel, it is the prophetic timepiece, and we see that events of the last days are coming in line. Thus, the rapture is near, if not today, than tomorrow, and if you ask me tomorrow I will tell you the same thing.

World Confused / 5 to 300 / No Homeland / Peace Brokers – Antichrist

The world is so confused on these things, they can't understand this whole Israel, Jewish, Palestinian thing, but we do. Sadly, the majority of the world is blind to the whole story on Israel, for anyone with an open mind would have to ask, how does 5 million Jews continue to stand surrounded by 300 million Arab-Muslims bent on destroying them. How can a nation survive and keep its identity without having a homeland for 2000 years, for history shows that 200 years has been the maximum for any national group to survive without an homeland. The worlds so-called greatest minds are trying to broker peace in Israel and we no it will never happen (at least for any extended period) until the anti-christ brokers that peace deal. We know it doesn't matter how many nukes Iran develops, how many terrorist Syria trains, they will never wipeout Israel. I wish I could say that about the USA. It is amazing that a bunch of nobody's like us know the future of the world more so than the world leaders do. This book is truly amazing, so exciting to explore, study, and learn. And, what exciting times we get to live in.....

Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

(Genesis 42:35 NKJV) Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

(Genesis 42:36 NKJV) And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."

All things Against / Rest of Story – Chp 45 / Forget his Past

As far as Jacob could see, all things were against him. We, like Jacob, with our limited vision and our inability of seeing past today, look at the circumstances of our life and say everything or everybody is against me. Jacob doesn't know the rest of the story, if he can just hold on until chapter 45. How quickly and easily he forgot his story, a story of God meeting him, revealing Himself to him, and receiving promises from God:

Jacob thinks everything is against him. He uses that word all, which is a big word. When you're in the middle of a hard time, but he has no idea that what he thinks is against him, this force that is for him, and is about to bring all these things, great, and mighty depends in his life. that is gone, is on the move, and that his God has not forgotten yet. And that his God must and will fulfill the vision that was given to him, the dream that was given to him. being numbered, the stars in the sky.

The Ladder – the Promise -

He saw the Lord ascending and descending upon the ladder between heaven and earth, he saw a foreshadow of Jesus Christ the bridge between man and God. Jacob also received a promise from God that he would have many descendants, and that God would keep him wherever he went:

(Genesis 28:12 NKJV) Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

(Genesis 28:13 NKJV) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

(Genesis 28:14 NKJV) "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

(Genesis 28:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."

(Genesis 28:16 NKJV) Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

Wrestling Match – Name Change

Jacob wrestled with God, and God humbled him, and changed his name from sneaky conniver to Israel – governed by God:

(Genesis 32:24 NKJV) Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the breaking of day.

(Genesis 32:25 NKJV) Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob's hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him.

(Genesis 32:26 NKJV) And He said, "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But he said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

(Genesis 32:27 NKJV) So He said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Jacob."

(Genesis 32:28 NKJV) And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed."

(Genesis 32:29 NKJV) Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there.

(Genesis 32:30 NKJV) And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."

Reaffirms the Promise

God reaffirms his covenant with Jacob, His promise to give him the land and his descendants, and that from Jacob descendants will come:

(Genesis 35:11 NKJV) Also God said to him: "I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

(Genesis 35:12 NKJV) "The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land."

(Genesis 35:13 NKJV) Then God went up from him in the place where He talked with him.

Christian God is for You

Christian, remember, even when things look so hopeless, and all is against you, that God is for you:

(Romans 8:31 NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Past is Promise of Future / Master's Plan

God is for you beloved, and what God has done in the past is an indication, a promise, of what He will do in the future. God has a master plan for all of our lives, it is the "Master's Plan":

(Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV) For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

That Word ALL

Jacob says that word all, and there's another passage that uses that word all, and it's all things work together for good, for those who love God and walk according to his purpose. And I can say this to you, beloved follower of Christ, that if you are walking obediently to him, his way, his word, then these things are for you, and not against you, and he will work these things out. For your favor, and therefore, again, a message and word to continue on. Christian soldier, don't grow weary of doing good, and in due time, God will bring it to pass. Not just for your good, but for his glory, do you believe that today is just pause and think about that before I move on? Let's meditate on that word all things.

Proverbs 3:5-6, trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding, but in all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will direct your path. God has something bigger than the moment that you're in. He's always looking for the future and eternity. In mind, and so we can't put our wisdom into the matter. We have to trust in faith, in the moments that we're in when we don't understand, and here's Jacob, he doesn't understand all this. God could have told him 20 years ago, but for whatever the purpose, God chose not to. And God may do that in your life. And you may make a decision based on something that you don't have all the information on, and that's why we just have to stay settled and trusting in the Lord, on his word. And he will direct our path step by step.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Jacob could take the hardship that he's been experiencing for 20 years, and then look at the pieces that come before him today, and say that God has forsaken him, that God no longer loves him, that God has abandoned him, and for 20 years, he doesn't know that God was doing something. Bigger and outside of what he could see and know.

Enjoy it – Watch it Unfold

Trust in that, enjoy it, enjoy the excitement of watching the Master's Plan unfold in our lives, right before our very eyes.

(Genesis 42:37 NKJV) Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

(Genesis 42:38 NKJV) But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

Rueben – Living up to Name

Rueben here is living up to his name, Jacob will identify who he is in his final words before he dies:

(Genesis 49:3 NKJV) "Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

(Genesis 49:4 NKJV) Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it; He went up to my couch.

Unstable – Boiling Water / Foolish Words – No Thought

Jacob says Reuben is unstable as water, and that is a reference to boiling water. Reuben makes a foolish vow in the heat of the moment. Kill my 2 sons if I don't bring Benjamin back, I am sure his sons were like gee thanks dad, really appreciate that. It is ok to defer a comment, until after you have thought it through, prayed it through, and allow the Lord to speak to you discernment on the matter. Like Joseph did, after 3 days he says go, for I fear God. Reuben, he hadn't thought this through, for offering his sons as a ransom is foolish:

(Proverbs 14:29 NKJV) He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.

(James 1:19 NKJV) So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

(James 1:20 NKJV) for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Joseph our Example

Joseph is our example, take the time and go away to seek the Lord, so you may do and say what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

Outline: Genesis 42

- The 10 Brothers Head to Egypt (42:1-5)
- The First Dream Comes to Pass (42:6)
- God Begins to Work in the 10 Brothers (42:7-24)
- The Brothers Head Back to Father Jacob (42:25-34)
- Jacob Forgets the Promises of God (42:35-38)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need