

Sermon Notes 7/18/21

“The Road of Repentance”

How should we respond to Genesis chapter 42?

1. Evaluate ourselves with humility and _____.

Genesis 42:10-11

1 John 1:8-10

2. Express _____ for our sin.

Genesis 42:21

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

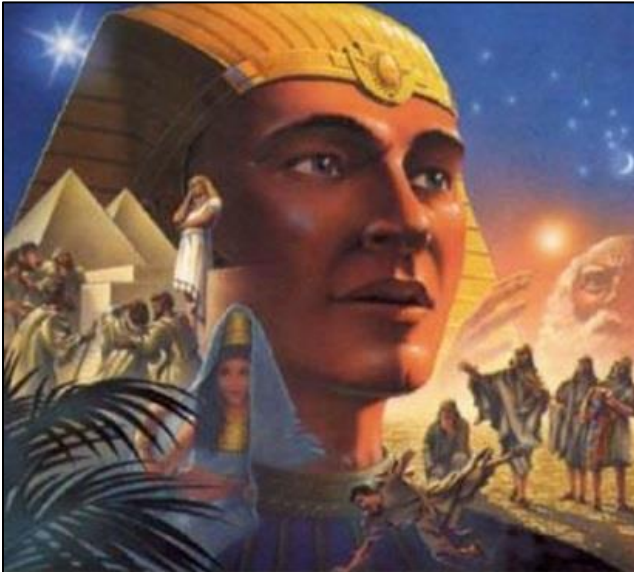
3. Embrace the _____ of God.

Genesis 42:28

Genesis 42:35

Romans 2:4

Titus 2:11-12



God shaped the character of Joseph and his brothers.

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 42: July 18-25

Genesis 42

Twenty-two years have passed since Joseph last saw his brothers. At this point, he was a different man from the teenage boy they sold into slavery. He experienced many different afflictions, temptations, and promotions, and through them all God was shaping Joseph into a wise and powerful leader. But what about Joseph's brothers? How have they changed? Have they truly repented of their abusive treatment of Joseph? In this chapter we see some important principles that will help us to practice sincere repentance.

Read Genesis 42:1-17

1. What did Jacob say to his sons in verse 1?

This is the third time that the book of Genesis talks about famines in the land of Canaan (12:10; 26:1).

2. Why did Jacob tell his sons to go down to Egypt? (42:2)

3. Why did Jacob not send Benjamin with his other sons on the trip to Egypt? (42:3-5)

4. How did the older brothers greet Joseph in verse 6?

5. How did Joseph greet his older brothers in verse 7?

6. Why do you think Joseph recognized his brothers but none of the brothers recognized Joseph? (42:6-8)

7. What accusation Joseph make against his brothers in verse 9?

8. What personal details did the brothers tell Joseph to try to convince him that they were not spies? (42:10-13)

9. How did Joseph say he was going to test the truthfulness of the brothers' story? (42:14-17)

Honesty and humility are essential for sincere repentance. This chapter shows how the brothers have grown both of these areas. Kissling notes,

The irony of Joseph's brothers, who sold him into slavery, telling the disguised Joseph that they are honest men is not lost on the reader. While what they have been saying is truthful, what they had been doing was not morally right, a meaning the word translated "honest" often has. The "honesty" of Joseph's brothers continues as an issue in verses 19, 31, 33, and 34 below and thus is a sort of leitmotif in this passage.¹

Read Genesis 42:18-38

10. What did Joseph tell his brothers in verse 18?
11. How did Joseph change his plan in verse 19? Why?
12. What did Joseph insist that the brothers do to verify their story in verse 20?
13. What did the brothers say to one another in verses 21-22?
14. What did Joseph do when he overheard his brothers talking in Hebrew? (42:23-24)

Dennis Prager observes,

Through all his tribulations, the Torah never reports Joseph breaking down and crying—not when his brothers threw him into the pit, not when he was sold into slavery, not when Potiphar sent him to prison—until now. And why wouldn't he be moved? He heard their expressions of guilt and remorse, he learned Reuben tried to intervene, he was beginning to believe his brothers weren't bad people after all, and he imagined for the first time that his family had returned to him. Family reconciliations generate some of the most powerful emotions humans experience. Even if great love never returns, reconnecting in any fashion is immeasurably superior to permanent alienation.²

¹ Paul Kissling, *The College Press NIV Commentary: Genesis Volume 2* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2009), 492.

² Dennis Prager, *The Rational Bible: Genesis* (Washington, DC: Regnery Faith, 2019), 480.

15. What did Joseph do for his brothers before they left? (42:25-26)

16. What happened when the brothers after the first day of their journey home? (42:27-28)

As in the previous chapters, Joseph gives us a glimpse of Jesus. Joseph gave his brothers gifts they did not deserve. Those gifts not only met their physical needs, but they were also designed to lead the brothers to repentance and reconciliation. Kent Hughes comments on verse 28,

This is the first time ever in the narrative that the brothers mention the Lord. But because of their raging guilt, they were quick to see God in this. They were traumatized, shocked, and terrified by a fresh and fearful awareness of the divine. However, this was not mere fear—it was godly fear. Joseph's brothers realized that their sins were against God. Fear is one thing, but godly fear comes from sensing that a holy God is the hand behind the circumstances of your life to bring you to where you ought to be. The brothers trembled in their awesome awareness.³

17. What did the brothers tell Jacob when they got home? (42:29-34)

18. What happened when the brothers emptied their sacks in verse 35?

19. What did Jacob say in verse 36?

20. How did Reuben respond to Jacob in verse 37?

21. What did Jacob say in verse 38?

22. Where do you see the message of the gospel in this chapter?

23. How should we deal with the unresolved sins of our past?

24. How have you seen God lead people to repentance?

25. What has God used to test or shape your character?

26. What can you do to be more sensitive to the changes God wants you to make?

³ R. Kent Hughes, *Genesis* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 498.