Series "In The Beginning…God"
"Awakening Of The Conscience"
Genesis 42:1-38
Study-72

Conscience: The Greek word for Conscience is made up of two words: *"To see" "Within"* (To know within myself what is right and wrong). *"God's watchdog, the court within man's most inner being."*

Our Conscience bears witness to the standard which God reveals in His Word. 1 Timothy 4:2

Genesis 42:1-44:34 The Mystery Phaise: Joseph now sets out to test his brother's character for change **Verse 15 by this you will be tested:**

Thought Of Our Passage: "Joseph Schooled In God's Grace, Now Applies That Same Grace To His Brothers Who Come To Him In Need."

1. Verses 1-5 The Need
2. Verses 6-25 The Meeting
3. Verses 26-38 The Return

<u>1. Verses 1-5 The Need:</u>

Genesis 42:1 <u>Now</u> Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt,
Context: This famine is the fulfillment of the dreams that God had given to Pharaoh. At least 7-8 years ago.
Genesis 41:56-57

Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?"
Because Egypt held some bad memories of a Joseph they sold into slavery and covered it up.

Proverbs 28:1 Guilty conscience is paranoid and insecure.

Genesis 42:2 "A spiritual person should also be a sensible person."

Genesis 42:3 went down to buy grain from Egypt. Jacob was in **Hebron,** - Which is about 250-300 miles, 20-25 miles a day (3 weeks).

Genesis 42:4 "I am afraid that harm may befall him." We see personal favoritism again. It was Joseph that Jacob loved the most; now that Joseph is gone, we see that Benjamin has taken his place. (Benjamin, the only son of Rachel.)

Genisis 42:5 So the sons of Israel came to buy grain - Getting Israel into Egypt.

2. Verses 6-25 The Meeting:

Genesis 42:6 Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. This was the fulfillment of a dream over 20 years earlier! **Genesis 37:7**

"Joseph learned through suffering the secret of faith and patient submission." Focus was continually on God! Not on what man said!

Genesis 42:7 When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them – It has been 20-21 years.

and spoke to them harshly. (Brothers were hard nuts to crack! Joseph used pressure to gain info on his family)

Genesis 42:8 they did not recognize him. During the storm, the disciples missed Jesus, **Mark 6:49** (Weren't expecting) Joseph is 37-38.

Genesis 42:9 Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, - How amazing how God brings things to light? **Genesis 37:7,9**

Genesis 37:9 eleven stars were bowing down to me." Not fulfilled yet, 10 brothers but 11 stated.

(Accusation # 1: You're Spies - 3 times) "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land." Joseph was falsely accused by his brothers, Jacob sent Joseph to check on their welfare. **Genesis 37:13**

Genesis 42:10-13 "Your servants are twelve brothers in all,
They are being forced to look at themselves as to who they really are.

Genesis 42:14 Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies; (Accusation #2: You're Spies) verse 15 Why? Joseph wanted to see how Benjamin was and how his brothers were treating him.

Genesis 42:16 surely you are spies." (Accusation #3: You're Spies)

Some say that Joseph was giving out sweet revenge! Genesis 42:24 He turned away from them and wept.

Simeon and Levi - had slaughtered an entire city of men.
Ruben - had sex with his father's concubine.
Judah - had solicited his daughter in-law as a harlot)
Joseph in a spiritual way, was role-playing out for them the way that they had treated him.

Genesis 42:17 So he put them all together in prison for three days. That was not very long! Let their conscience work.

Genesis 42:18 for I fear God: Notice the witness of God, **Genesis 39:9 Potiphar's** wife, **"How can I do this great evil and sin against God? Genesis 40:8; "Do not interpretations belong to God. Genesis 41:16 "God will give Pharoah a favorable answer.**

Genesis 41:32 "God will quickly bring it to pass." Genesis 41:51 "God has made me forget" (Everything in Joseph's life was governed by God).

Genesis 42:19-20 Are your words true?

Verses 21-28 God Awakens The Conscience: Genesis 42:21

Conscience: "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, (Notice The Guilt)

Notice that it was after the solitude that they came to face their sin!

Memory: because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; (Memory) They were hard-hearted, and the memories are coming back!

Reason: therefore this distress has come upon us." What goes around comes around! Reaping and sowing Galatians 6:7-10

Genesis 42:22, Genesis 37:21-22

"Did I not tell you, - So classic I told you so! Owning their sin!

Genesis 42:23 They did not know, however, that Joseph understood Worry about God, not Joseph.

Genesis 42:24 He <u>turned away</u> from them and wept. This shows that Joseph loved his brothers deeply. He would weep over Benjamin **Genesis 43:30,** Judah offers to take Benjamin's place **Genesis 45:2;** When he met Jacob **Genesis 46:29.** Jesus wept over Jerusalem **Luke 19:41**

he took Simeon from them and bound him <u>before their eyes</u>. Why **Simeon?** Possibly his idea, to sell Joseph, **Genesis 49,** nothing good about him **Simeon** is now the elder brother. Ruben attempted to release Joseph **Genesis 37:21-29**

Genesis 42:25 restore every man's money in his sack, - Joseph did nothing but good to his brothers. Exchanged Simeon for money?

3. Verses 26-38 The Return:

Genesis 42:26-28

Godly Fear: "What is this that God has done to us?" First Time The Brothers Mention the Lord: 2 Corinthians 7:10 (NLT)

"The second time, the brothers returned home with money, having abandoned a brother in slavery or Egypt"

Romans 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone.

Genesis 42:29 they told him all that had happened to them, saying, 1st time honest with Jacob!

Genesis 42:30 the lord of the land, Joseph is called the "Lord" - master bowed before.

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

Genesis 42:32-35
Remorse/Sorrow was at work, but not repentance! They have not owned that they sold brother Joseph!

Genesis 42:36 "You have bereaved me of my children: The blaming of his sons, which Joseph's disappearance was their fault!

all these things are against me." "Viewing Life Naturally, Not Spiritually"
Genesis 42:37-38 (NLT) 1 Corinthians 10:13

Application:

1. **Guilt –** The Admission Of Guilt, The Acceptance Of Responsibility For My Own Sins.

2. **Fear –** Godly Fear, The Realization That God Is Afflicting Me. I Focus On God, The Only Source.

3. **Sorrow –** Godly Grief And Sorrow Paves The Way For Repentance Without Regret.