

Let's Worship God

20th-25th March 2023
Genesis



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Monday - Genesis 42:1-6 - Fulfilment of a Dream

Joseph's life has radically changed in the last twenty years. He has gone from being his father's favoured son to being hated by his brothers and sold as a slave in Egypt. He has been falsely accused and thrown into prison when he was trying to do what was right and honourable. He has been forgotten about in prison. But now all these evil circumstances are beginning to turn into good things as Joseph is promoted to a position of great power and prosperity in Egypt after correctly interpreting Pharaoh's dream. Now God is slowly but surely leading Joseph towards a family reunion.

Jacob orders his sons to go and buy grain in Egypt as this terrible famine has struck even the Promised Land. A famine would be a vivid reminder to Jacob and his family that they cannot put their trust in land and possessions, but they must rely on God to take care of them in all circumstances. God has providentially ordered it that the food in Egypt will be a blessing to those in Israel. Jacob reproves his sons for standing around, doing nothing, despairing, when they should be going to Egypt to get food for their families, using the means that God has provided to take care of them.

The sons of Jacob obey his orders themselves, considering this too important of a matter to entrust to servants. They just leave Benjamin behind as he now is the favoured son of his father, Jacob, who wants nothing bad to happen to him as it did to his brother, Joseph. So, when his brothers come before Joseph, they bow down to him in fulfilment of Joseph's dream when their sheaves of corn bowed down to his.

Questions

1. Who is one of the most powerful leaders in Egypt?
2. Why did Jacob send his sons to Egypt?
3. What would a famine remind Jacob and his family of?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's care of our families.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Genesis 42:7-20 - Spies!

It has been a long time since Joseph's dream of his brothers bowing before him in submission. Perhaps there are times when he wonders if that dream will ever be fulfilled. But on this day he looks up from where he has been dealing with the business of food distribution to see these 10 men approaching him - men he instantly recognises, and all his memories of the past must have come flooding back.

Even though his brothers don't recognise him, Joseph is reminded of the dreams he had so long ago. Joseph's brothers must have been terrified and bewildered to have this extremely powerful Egyptian harshly accuse them of being spies. Why does Joseph treat them this way? It isn't for revenge. Instead, Joseph wants to make sure his dreams really are being fulfilled before his very eyes, see if his brothers are sorry for what they have done, and find out about his family and what has happened to them in the last twenty years. Not seeing Benjamin with them, perhaps he is afraid that his brothers have gotten rid of him as well. So, he takes some time to find out what the situation is before he reveals himself.

Joseph's brothers speak humbly to him, telling him why they are there and about the rest of their family. But Joseph puts them in prison for three days. When he releases them, he makes them leave one brother as a hostage and commands them to bring back Benjamin. He tells them that he fears God, so they can know that he will treat them fairly. The fear of God is a check upon those in power that keeps them from acting unjustly.

Questions

1. Do Joseph's brothers recognise him?
2. What does Joseph accuse them of being?
3. Why does Joseph treat his brothers harshly?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our leaders would fear God and act righteously.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Genesis 42:21-28 - More Trouble

Joseph's brothers thought all they had to do was take a journey down to Egypt and bring back some food. They thought the only thing they'd be leaving behind was the money they paid for the food. But instead they have been accused by the second most powerful man in Egypt, the one who controls the food supply, thrown into prison, forced to leave one of their brothers behind as a hostage, and ordered to bring back their youngest brother, Benjamin, something they know their father will not be happy about at all. What a trip gone wrong! But all these circumstances have finally brought forth in their hearts the repentance they should have shown a long time ago. They see this as God judging them for the way they treated their brother, Joseph, and they seem to be genuinely sorry for what they have done. God gives us a conscience to bother us when we do things that are wrong, and He uses troubles to wake up our conscience and bring to mind things that may even have happened a long time ago, so we can be sorry for these things and ask God for forgiveness.

Even though it is very painful for him to keep his identity a secret, Joseph must make sure that these words of repentance from his brothers are genuine. So he keeps Simeon as prisoner and sends his brothers on home. But as they return they discover the money they had paid for the food in their sacks. Their hearts sink as they assume that this will only mean more trouble for them when they return to Egypt. For Joseph's brothers things seem to be going from bad to worse.

Questions

1. Why do Joseph's brothers think this is happening to them?
2. Who is left behind as prisoner?
3. What is the purpose of a conscience?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be sorry for our sins and ask God for forgiveness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Genesis 42:29-38 - Bad News

It is with heavy hearts that Joseph's brothers return to Jacob to tell him about everything that has happened to them in Egypt. The news goes from bad to worse as they tell of how they were accused of being spies, thrown into prison, forced to leave Simeon, and now must bring back Benjamin to Egypt. Then they discover that all their money has been returned which thoroughly frightens them as they can only assume this will be used against them in Egypt in some way.

Jacob's response is less than encouraging. Knowing his sons well, perhaps he suspects that they antagonised the Egyptian leaders in some way bringing the situation to this point. He assumes the worst - not only is his beloved Joseph dead, but now Simeon is dead to him as well, and if Benjamin leaves him, he too will die. He concludes that everything is against him, which is a sad statement for a believer in a sovereign, caring, and loving God to make. For those who believe in God, despite the way circumstances may feel or look, God is working in all things, not against His people, but for their best good.

Jacob is determined that Benjamin will not go to Egypt. Reuben rashly promises that he will bring Benjamin back without even adding on an "If the Lord wills" or taking into account the dangers. Not only this he foolishly gives his father permission to kill his own two sons if he fails as though the death of two grandsons will somehow make up for the death of a son. Jacob however refuses to trust his beloved Benjamin with any of them.

Questions

1. Why does Jacob love Benjamin so much?
2. Who promises to bring him back safely?
3. Why is Jacob wrong when he says that everything is against him?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is working all things in our lives for our good and His glory and pray that we would see things that way.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Genesis 43:1-10 - No Other Option

Jacob has refused to send Benjamin to Egypt with his brothers. But now their food has run out, and there is still only one place to go for food - Egypt. Not to mention that Simeon is still stuck in prison there until they come back. But the brothers wait to see what their father will say. As the food runs out Jacob tells his sons to go back to Egypt and buy food.

It is the wiser Judah who speaks to his father now, not hasty Reuben. He tries to reason with his father, impressing upon him the complete and utter necessity of taking Benjamin with them. They have no other option. They either starve to death in Canaan, or Benjamin must go with them to Egypt. This is a small picture of how we, as sinners, cannot come to God as friends, unless we bring Jesus Christ with us. He is the one that enables us to have a good relationship with God.

Perhaps Judah is feeling guilty for his treatment of Joseph and tries to make it up by now taking special care of Benjamin. He promises his father that he will do all in his power to protect Benjamin, and that Jacob can hold him personally responsible if anything happens to Benjamin.

For Jacob this is a real test. He has been dangerously close to making idols of his two sons Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph has been taken away from him, and now he must give up Benjamin. He must trust in the Lord to care for Benjamin and put all his hope in the Lord's protection. He needs to remember that God is the one who gives and takes away, and that God will also do what is best for him.

Questions

1. What are the two choices facing Jacob's family?
2. Who offers to personally take care of Benjamin?
3. What kind of test is this for Jacob?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would trust in God to take care of others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Genesis 43:11-14 - Peace Offering

Jacob realises that there is no other option but to send Benjamin with his brothers to Egypt. So, he agrees. But he advises his sons to do several things that will hopefully make the leaders in Egypt look more kindly on them. First, they are to take back the money they found in their sacks. It might have been a mistake and the honest thing to do is to return it. Not only that, they take double the money in case the price of food had risen, or they need to pay a ransom for Simeon, or to just leave a gift with the leaders. Jacob also sends various other things like honey and spices that they would not have had in Egypt but are in Canaan. He is hoping to make peace with the leaders of Egypt by offering them these gifts.

Jacob has also passed the test of being willing to trust God with the life of his beloved son. He recognises that God is in control of this situation, and he prays that God will cause the Egyptian leader to show mercy to his sons. He knows from experience that God holds the hearts of all men in His hands, and He is willing to wait for God's way of doing things. He has resigned himself to the fact that God's ways are best whatever they are.

Questions

1. What does Jacob tell them to take back to Egypt?
2. Why does he tell them to take these things?
3. How does Jacob show that he wants God's will and not his own?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And Joseph recognised his brothers, but they did not recognise him. Genesis 42:8

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com