



Worship in Song

Sanctuary

Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary Pure and holy Tried and true With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You

Lord prepare me To be a sanctuary Pure and holy Tried and true With thanksgiving I'll be a living Sanctuary for You



Yes Lord Yes

I'll say yes Lord yes To Your will and to Your way I'll say yes Lord yes I will trust You and obey

When the Spirit speaks to me With my whole heart I'll agree And my answer will be Yes Lord yes

Lord I give You all the glory For all You've given me You have filled my life Until I overflow All I have is Yours To use in any way You choose You are Lord of all So how can I say no

I'll say yes Lord yes To Your will and to Your way I'll say yes Lord yes I will trust You and obey

When the Spirit speaks to me With my whole heart I'll agree And my answer will be Yes Lord yes

If I never knew the fullness Of living in Your will I would never know how rich My life could be

Lord my willingness to serve Is the least that You deserve For the blessings You have showered over me

I'll say yes Lord yes To Your will and to Your way I'll say yes Lord yes I will trust You and obey

When the Spirit speaks to me With my whole heart I'll agree And my answer will be Yes Lord yes



He Is Faithful

If we confess our sins He is faithful If we confess our sins He is just If we confess our sins He is faithful He is faithful He is faithful to forgive

So call upon the Lord He is faithful So call upon the Lord He is just So call upon the Lord He is faithful He is faithful He is faithful to forgive Now call upon the Lord He is faithful Now call upon the Lord He is just Now call upon the Lord He is faithful He is faithful He is faithful to forgive



Create In Me A Clean Heart Create in me a clean heart O God And renew a right spirit within me Create in me a clean heart O God And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence O Lord Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me

ANNOUNCEMENTS

and

GREETING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

John 17:22-23 "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved Do you enjoy working jigsaw puzzles? Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. (Open the box to reveal the pieces of the puzzle.) Wow! Look at all the pieces of this puzzle. The pieces of this puzzle are in many different sizes, shapes, colors. If you look at one piece of this puzzle, you don't get very much of the picture, do you? No, the pieces are not very important by themselves, but when they are all joined together and become one, they show the total picture. This jigsaw puzzle can teach us an important lesson about the church. The church is made up of many individual members. Like the pieces of this puzzle, the members of a church come in different sizes, shapes, and colors. Jesus himself prayed that the church would be one so that the world would see God's love in us. You and I are part of the picture. Jesus wants us to love one another, help one another, and serve one another. When we do that, we become one, just as Jesus prayed we would be, and when we are one, the world can see God's love in us. Unfortunately, just as it is sometimes difficult to put all of the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together, the individual members of the church sometimes have a hard time being one with each other. We may hear people in the church saying things like "I don't like the songs we sing" or "The preacher preaches too long." When we say things like that and concentrate on our own likes and dislikes, we are no longer being one. We are like the individual pieces of the puzzle. The world cannot see God's love in us. They don't get the whole picture. If you ever find yourself thinking about yourself, rather than being united with others in the church, remember that Jesus prayed that we would be one. When we are one, bound together by Christ's love, the world will see God's love through us.



CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE

TITHS

OFFERINGS

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven

Doxology

Praise God, from whom

all blessings flow:

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav' nly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A-men

Worship in Song

To God Be The Glory

To God be the glory great things He hath done So loved He the world that He gave us His Son Who yielded His life an atonement for sin And opened the life gate that all may go in

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the earth hear His voice Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the people rejoice O come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done

O perfect redemption the purchase of blood To every believer the promise of God The vilest offender who truly believes That moment from Jesus a pardon receives

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the earth hear His voice Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the people rejoice O come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done

Great things He hath taught us Great things He hath done And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son But purer and higher and greater will be Our wonder our transport when Jesus we see

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the earth hear His voice Praise the Lord, praise the Lord Let the people rejoice O come to the Father through Jesus the Son And give Him the glory great things He hath done



Christ Receiveth Sinful Men

Sinners Jesus will receive Sound this word of grace to all Who the heav'nly pathway leave All who linger all who fall

Sing it o'er and o'er again Christ receiveth sinful men Make the message clear and plain Christ receiveth sinful men

Come and He will give you rest **Trust Him for** His word is plain He will take the sinfulest Christ receiveth sinful men

Sing it o'er and o'er again Christ receiveth sinful men Make the message clear and plain Christ receiveth sinful men

Now my heart condemns me not Pure before the law I stand He who cleansed me from all spot Satisfied its last demand

Sing it o'er and o'er again Christ receiveth sinful men Make the message clear and plain Christ receiveth sinful men

Christ receiveth sinful men Even me with all my sin Purged from every spot and stain Heaven with Him I enter in

Sing it o'er and o'er again Christ receiveth sinful men Make the message clear and plain Christ receiveth sinful men



Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart oh God Make it ever true Change my heart oh God May I be like You

You are the potter I am the clay Mold me and make me This is what I pray

Change my heart oh God Make it ever true Change my heart oh God May I be like You

WORSHIP THE LORD IN HIS WORD

Journey From Tragedy to Triumph

LESSON 5 . . . How To Have a Clear Conscience

TEXT: (Genesis 42:1-16)

Please open your Bible and read along with us.

Genesis 42:1-16 "When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the

famine was in the land of Canaan. Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. And Joseph remembered

the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land." They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies." He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more."

But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." (ESV)

Introduction:

In the last chapter we saw Joseph brought from prison to see if he could interpret Pharaoh's dream.

Joseph told Pharaoh the dream meant there would be seven years of bountiful harvest followed by seven years of famine.

Impressed by Joseph's ability to interpret dreams and his wisdom in suggesting solutions, but primarily moved by GOD "...who had the heart of the king in His hand...", Pharaoh made Joseph governor of all Egypt.

Genesis 41:57 "And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands."

Thus, God has set the stage for the next scene in the life of Joseph, which brings us to:

I. The Alarmed Brothers (42:1-5)

In the first five verses of chapter 42 the scene changes from Egypt to Canaan, where there is widespread famine.

When Jacob, Joseph's father, hears there is food in Egypt, he says to his sons:

Genesis 42:1-2 "... Why do ye look one upon another?

2 "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.""

The phrase "Why do you look at one another" is very revealing.

When Joseph's brothers hear there is grain to be purchased in **Egypt** why do they look so anxiously at one another?

Why are they disturbed about going to Egypt?

We find the answer in:

Genesis 37:28 "Then Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt."

The brothers know if they travel to Egypt there is the possibility of coming into contact with Joseph, who they believe is serving as a slave.

From the day they sold him, every time they heard his name or the word "Egypt" their consciences reminded them of their horrible sin.

If we do not confess and forsake our sin, God sends certain things into our lives to set off the alarm we call a **conscience**.

In the case of Joseph's brothers, the alarm was sounded by the word "Egypt"; it was the famine that brought up the word.

God often uses adversity to set off our consciences.

An example of this truth is the story Jesus tells of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15.

In it a father has two sons.

One day the younger of the two humiliates his father by demanding his inheritance.

In essence he says, "Old man.
I can't wait until you die, I
want my inheritance now."

The father gives him his inheritance, which the younger son takes to a far country and squanders in wild living (Luke 15:13).

Finally, he finds himself in the most despicable place for a Jewish boy, feeding swine.

He is so poor and hungry he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate (Luke 15:16).

It is through this "personal famine" in his life that the younger son decides to do what, according to Luke 15:18-19?

Luke 15:18-19 "I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants."

In the midst of adversity the younger son came to himself (Luke 15:17);

He came to his senses, and realized he needed to return to his father and confess his sin.

Often God allows us to go through some kind of famine to bring us to our senses—awaken our consciences—so we will come to genuine confession and restoration.

Thus, God uses a famine to awaken the consciences of Joseph's brothers.

Reluctantly, Joseph's ten brothers leave the youngest, Benjamin, behind and go to "Egypt."

Genesis 42:3-5 "And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy corn in Egypt. 4 But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. 5 And the sons of Israel came to buy corn among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan."

After the <u>alarmed brothers</u>, we come to...

II. The Analysis by Joseph (Genesis 42:6-24a)

When Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt they have to stand in line to buy food from Joseph, who sold to all the people of the land (42:6).

Joseph is now nearly 40 years of age.

He had been sold into slavery at 17, he was a slave and a prisoner for 13 years, he interpreted the dream of Pharaoh at age 30, the seven years of plenty had passed, and we are now at least a year or two into the famine.

Joseph's appearance had certainly changed in 20 years, not to mention his speech and attire, which are now Egyptian.

When the brothers come before Joseph, they bowed down before him:

Genesis 42:6 "And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth."

This fulfills the dreams of Joseph, recorded in Genesis 37:9-10.

Imagine what must have gone through Joseph's mind when he recognized his brothers.

He had the perfect opportunity to get even.

He could have ordered them immediately executed.

However, Joseph decides to analyze their hearts to see if they have changed.

He speaks <u>roughly to them</u> (42:7), questioning them about their reasons for coming to Egypt.

Finally he says to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!" (Genesis 42:9).

In other words, "You have come to see where Egypt is unprotected and vulnerable."

Though the brothers vehemently deny being spies, Joseph devises a plan to analyze his brothers' hearts.

At first he says one of you...bring your brother (Benjamin), and the rest be kept in prison (42:16).

Possibly, Joseph wants to impress upon them the extent of his power over them.

His plan is designed to reveal their real attitude toward his only full brother, Benjamin, the other son of Rachel, Joseph's Mother.

After they spend three days in prison, Joseph revises his plan. (Genesis 42:18;)

Genesis 42:19-20 "If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: 20 But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so."

It is important to note that as they discuss their dilemma, what do they think is causing their peril?

Genesis 42:21 "And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us."

Joseph speaks to them through an interpreter, so they do not know he can understand what they are saying in Hebrew.

Joseph hears his brothers' distress.

Twenty years has not alleviated their guilt, for Reuben says, concerning Joseph:

Genesis 42:22 "... Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? Therefore, behold, also his blood is required."

At this point it is clear Joseph's harsh treatment and imprisonment of his brothers is not revenge.

It was a means to appraise his brothers' hearts and to show them a spiritual truth later announced by Moses to the tribes who refused to go with him to take the Promised Land.

Numbers 32:23 "But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."

When Joseph sees his brothers struggling with their consciences and that they believe justice is catching up with them...

"...he cannot contain his emotions, so he turns himself away from them and wept" (42:24).

Having looked at the Alarmed Brothers and the Analysis By Joseph, let's now consider..

III. The Activated Consciences (Genesis 42:24b-28)

To hide his forgiving and loving heart and to strike fear into his brothers, Joseph returned to them again,

"...and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes" (42:24).

To put Simeon in chains before their eyes would put horror in his brothers' hearts, for they would judge Joseph to be cruel and vindictive.

But Joseph knew it would require harsh treatment to bring them to repentance.

So it is with God.

When there is sin in our lives and the pressure of conscience does not bring us to repentance, it requires more drastic action on God's part.

The prophet Jonah refuses to go to the Gentile city of Nineveh to preach and bring it to repentance as God commands, but instead takes a ship to Tarshish. (The Opposite Direction)

His conscience is not enough to cause repentance, for in the midst of his sin and running from God he is fast asleep in the hold of the ship (Jonah 1:5).

When we sin and our conscience keeps us awake, tossing and turning all night, there is hope.

But, when we can sin and then go home, lie down, and go <u>fast</u> <u>asleep</u>, God must take drastic action.

Therefore, what does GOD do in the midst of Jonah's sin?

Jonah 1:4 "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

In twenty years Joseph's brothers have not confessed and repented of their sin.

Thus, God is sending a storm to further awaken their consciences and bring them to repentance.

Genesis 42:25 "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."

The Bible doesn't say what Joseph's intention is for giving their money back.

However, on their journey back to Canaan;

Genesis 42:27 "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."

When he tells his brothers about the money, their hearts failed them and they were afraid (42:28).

At this point they only know money is in one bag.

Joseph may have planted the money so they would think if they returned they would be accused of cheating Joseph, and he would severely punish them.

So, would they forget Simeon and devise another story like they did when Joseph was sold into slavery?

It is significant they say to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?" (42:28).

This is the first time any of Joseph's brothers mentions the name of God.

This is a breakthrough because they are in essence admitting God will somehow, some way, some day, punish them for their sin. Fear of judgment is one way God awakens our conscience.

When Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit, what did He say the Holy Spirit would do in John 16:8?

John 16:8 ""And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:"

God has placed in each of us a conscience that can be suppressed but that the Holy Spirit activates and causes us to realize this eternal, unchangeable truth:

"There is a payday some day for all unconfessed sin."

Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,"

Having considered the Alarmed Brothers, the Analysis By Joseph, and the Activated Consciences, let's now look at:

IV. The Apprehension of Jacob (42:29-38)

Upon arriving in Canaan, the nine brothers tell Jacob what happened to them (Genesis 42:29-34).

To complicate matters further, "...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." (42:35).

What will they do?

If they return to Egypt, Joseph will treat them as thieves,

and if they have Benjamin with them, what will happen to him?

The strange story and the mysterious return of money only add to Jacob's apprehension.

In verse 36 it appears Jacob has always been suspicious of his sons' account of what happened to Joseph;

Genesis 42:36 "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.""

Reuben seeks to calm Jacob's fears by offering to give him his two sons (TO KILL) as proof they will bring Benjamin back safely (42:37).

Jacob does not want to risk the only remaining son of his beloved Rachel.

Genesis 42:38 "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.""

God is using the words of Jacob to amplify the voice of conscience.

God uses the conscience of even the vilest person to try to bring them to repentance.

A case in point is Herod Antipas, governor of Galilee, who was known for his immorality and cruelty.

He was such a vile person he married Herodias, the wife of his brother Herod Philip.

For violating the laws of God, he was openly condemned and called upon to repent by John the Baptist, whom Herod respected and feared.

However, Herodias danced Herodinto hell when she tricked him into beheading John.

Sometime later, word comes to Herod about the ministry and miracles of Jesus.

When Herod's tormented conscience hears of it, how does he respond in:

Mark 6:16 "But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!""

God was using Herod Antipas' conscience to bring him to repentance.

But Herod would not listen to his conscience.

The last recorded mention of Herod Antipas reveals a chilling reality.

While on trial Jesus was sent from Pilate to Herod Antipas because the case was under his jurisdiction and he was in town.

Finally, Herod will meet the miracle-working Jesus.

This is Herod's chance to confess, but instead what does Luke 23:8 say he desires of Jesus?

Luke 23:8 "... for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him."

He is no longer sensitive to what is holy and right, so after they:

"...treated Him with contempt and mocked Him they send Jesus back to Pilate to be crucified." (Luke 23:11)

Titus 1:15 "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

If we ignore the repeated warning of conscience, as Herod Antipas did;

We can eventually have what the Bible calls a ...

"...conscience seared with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:2).

Seared translates a Greek word from which we get our English word "cauterize."

It is the idea of desensitizing, to make insensitive to right and wrong.

Conclusion:

1 John 3:20 "for whenever our heart (CONSCIENCE) condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and h e k n o w s everything." (ESV)

To refuse habitually to listen to our conscience is to desensitize it.

Examine your life to see if there is any unconfessed sin, because any sin you fail to confess will progressively desensitize your conscience.

Psalms 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting."

After confessing all known sin and making apologies where appropriate, what promise in 1 John 1:9 lets us know our sin has been totally taken care of so we can have a clear conscience?

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

- To have a clear conscience, remember...
- The Alarmed Brothers
- The Analysis by Joseph
- The Activated Conscience
- The Apprehension of Jacob

INVITATION

Out Of My Bondage

Out of my bondage sorrow and night Jesus I come Jesus I come **Into Thy freedom** gladness and light Jesus I come to Thee

Out of my sickness into Thy health Out of my want and into Thy wealth Out of my sin and into thyself Jesus I come to Thee

Out of my shameful failure and loss Jesus I come Jesus I come Into the glorious gain of Thy cross Jesus I come to Thee

Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm Out of life's storms and into Thy calm Out of distress to jubilant Psalm Jesus I come to Thee

Out of unrest and arrogant pride Jesus I come Jesus I come Into Thy blessed will to abide Jesus I come to Thee

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love Out of despair into raptures above Upward for aye on wings like a dove Jesus I come to Thee

Benediction and Fellowship