

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Joseph not reveal himself on his brothers' first visit?
2. In verses 7 and 8, we learn of Joseph's great spiritual maturity. What lessons can we learn from this to help us resolve conflicts among ourselves?
3. In verse 5, Joseph urged his brothers to forget the past. Is it possible to "forgive and not forget?"
4. The wrongs of the past can make hearts cold, hard and bitter. How and why should we avoid this?

SUMMARY:

It took a number of years to prepare Joseph for this time. Perhaps he wondered a number of times why that had to happen to him when those about him were apparently blessed more than he. His brothers remained at home—undetected in their sin—and he had to suffer from one injustice after another. We see from Joseph's actions that he remained true to God and continued with a testimony for God. At the moment of our lesson we can see that he had to undergo all of these in order to be prepared for the work which God had him to do.

And after all, is this not what we should expect, not only in Joseph's life but in our own? God is the great Master Planner who knows all that He expects our lives to accomplish. Should we not trust Him and follow Him one step at a time fully realizing that He can accomplish with us what He will?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #12

June 22, 2014

Second Quarter

JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

LESSON TEXT: *Genesis 45:1-15; Matthew 5:44-45*

LESSON SETTING: Joseph's brothers still in Egypt.

TIME: Approximately 1707 B.C.

I. JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF. Genesis 45:1-3

- A. Tenderness Revealed (vs. 2) Isaiah 58:7; Galatians 6:2
- B. Love for the Family (vs. 3)

II. JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS. Genesis 45:4-16

- A. His Forgiveness (vs. 4, 14-15)
- B. His Explanation
 1. God's Plan (vs. 5, 8)
 2. God's Purpose (vs. 7)

III. CHRISTIAN FORGIVENESS DESCRIBED. Matthew 5:44-45

- A. Love your Enemies (vs. 44)
 1. Bless Them: Romans 12:14
 2. Pray for Them: Luke 23:34; Acts 7:60
 3. Good for Evil (vs. 44) Proverbs 25:21-22; Romans 12:17, 20

GOLDEN TEXT: *LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, BLESS THEM THAT CURSE YOU, DO GOOD TO THEM THAT HATE YOU, AND PRAY FOR THEM THAT DESPITEFULLY USE YOU, AND PERSECUTE YOU.*
Matthew 5:44

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Genesis 46:1-7; 47:1-12; 50:15-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Acts 7:12-14; 1 Timothy 5:8

QUARTERLY THEME: The Patriarchs

TOPIC: JOSEPH PROVIDES FOR HIS FAMILY

INTRODUCTION:

During the time while Jacob continued to mourn the death of his favorite son whom he thought was killed by wild animals years ago, God was preparing this son as an instrument to lead His chosen people from the land of famine to a land which had plenty. How like God! At a time when things seem the blackest, He is often preparing a special blessing for those who trust and obey Him. Jacob was to again have his favorite son at his side and to know the children of this son. It must have been hard for him to believe the words that his sons brought back from Egypt.

This undoubtedly was one of his richest rewards to see all of his sons around him and to see his people snatched from very dire circumstances. He must have rejoiced in the confidence which Pharaoh showed Joseph and thankful that Joseph did not harbor a grudge.

As he stood before Pharaoh and heard that they were to be given a rich land to graze their animals and to have plenty of food for his people he surely gave thanks to God.

Experiences of saints of old such as these should give the believer of today greater confidence in the one true living God. We should truly lay our bodies before Him as living sacrifices willing to do His will in all matters.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Every Christian has an obligation to care for the spiritual and material needs of his family.

GOLDEN TEXT: *HONOR THY FATHER AND MOTHER: WHICH IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE.* Ephesians 6:2

In God's plan for the establishment of men on earth, the basic group unit is the family. This first began immediately after He created Adam and saw that he needed a helpmate. From this time to the present, God has dealt with man through this unit of its spiritual counterpart. In Genesis, the family unit was instructed to multiply and replenish the earth. In Deuteronomy we see that the responsibility for teaching children is housed with the family. (Deuteronomy 6:7) We find also that the instructions given the children of Israel for escaping the death angel were given and observed as a family. (Exodus 12:2)

The spiritual counterpart of the family is very clearly evident in Scripture. Those who are born again, in obedience to God, are brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus said: "*For whosoever shall do the will of my Father, which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.*" (Matthew 12:50) Believers presently living on earth and those who die having been partakers in God's wonderful sacrifice will one day become the bride of Christ, thus fulfilling the true spiritual union of which the family is a type.

Thus, to show respect to our parents, we not only obey God's Word but we acknowledge this institution which He established. Failure to show respect is to deny what God has done.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 23 – 29

M. Joseph Sends for His Father. Genesis 45:13-28

T. *God Speaks to Jacob. Genesis 46:1-7

W. Joseph Meets His Father. Genesis 46:26-34

T. *Joseph Provides for His Family. Genesis 47:1-12

F. Joseph Secures the Land for Food. Genesis 47:13-21

S. Jacob Blesses Joseph's Sons. Genesis 48:1-16

S. *Joseph Buries His Father. Genesis 50:1-21

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