

Gen 42 and 43 Reconciliation

This document is a summary, please download the audio file for a full explanation.

SLIDE

III- The Genie in the bottle-This timeless story tells of a fisherman who's down on his luck. He catches seaweed, shells and a smelly sock, but no fish. Then he catches something else that looks quite useless: an old bottle. As soon as the fisherman takes out the stopper and casts it aside, however, a huge genie appears, furious at his years of captivity and threatening to eat the fisherman.

It's time for the fisherman to use his wits. He looks at the small bottle with disbelief, saying the genie could never fit in it. Indignantly, the genie shrinks back into the bottle and the fisherman puts the stopper in, trapping him once more.

Powerful and Angry, a bad combination.- Who wants to meet that ruler?

SLIDE

III- Powerful world Rulers, Trump, Putin, Xi Jinping

Wisdom of God around the sin of humanity.

SLIDE

Matthew 10:16-17 (NLT) Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT) 21 "Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' 23 But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'

John 2:23-25 (NLT) Because of the miraculous signs Jesus did in Jerusalem at the Passover celebration, many began to trust in him. 24 But Jesus didn't trust them, because he knew all about people. 25 No one needed to tell him about human nature, for he knew what was in each person's heart.

SLIDE

Joseph a man who had come to terms with forgiveness, and seeks reconciliation with his family.

1. Forgiveness has happened in your heart and you see the need to move forward in this expression towards reconciliation.
2. Reconciliation needs to be done from a position of Safety when abuse has been involved.

Joseph approx 38 years old when they come to visit, 7 good years, followed by the start of famine.

SLIDE

Genesis 41:45-46 (NLT) So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. 46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.

Joseph knows his family will eventually turn up, and it was the custom to present yourself to the rules of the land when striking a trade agreement.

Joseph was threatened with Murder, then sold into slavery, false accused of sexual misconduct and then left to languish in jail.

He could have taken retribution, first on Potiphar and his wife, and finally on his family.

He approached life a very different way.

Fulfills the first dream he had, with the brothers bowing down to him.

Have they changed, is the forgiveness I have given to be turned into a basis for rebuilding relationship? What are the stepping stones of reconciliation?

Have they changed.

Are they repentant

Would they genuinely do things differently now?

Consider the history.

Reuben

Genesis 35:21-22 (NLT) Then Jacob traveled on and camped beyond Migdal-eder. 22 While he was living there, Reuben had intercourse with Bilhah, his father's concubine, and Jacob soon heard about it.

Simeon and Levi

Genesis 34:25 (NLT) But three days later, when their wounds were still sore, two of Jacob's sons, Simeon and Levi, who were Dinah's full brothers, took their swords and entered the town without opposition. Then they slaughtered every male there

Judah- We are aware of Judah's failing , Joseph isn't.

Genesis 38:14-18 (NLT) Tamar was aware that Shelah had grown up, but no arrangements had been made for her to come and marry him. So she changed out of her widow's clothing and covered herself with a veil to disguise herself. Then she sat beside the road at the entrance to the village of Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. 15 Judah noticed her and thought she was a prostitute, since she had covered her face. 16 So he stopped and propositioned her. "Let me have sex with you," he said, not realizing that she was his own daughter-in-law.

"How much will you pay to have sex with me?" Tamar asked.

17 "I'll send you a young goat from my flock," Judah promised.

"But what will you give me to guarantee that you will send the goat?" she asked.

18 "What kind of guarantee do you want?" he replied.

She answered, "Leave me your identification seal and its cord and the walking stick you are carrying." So Judah gave them to her. Then he had intercourse with her, and she became pregnant.

How had they represented his salvery to his father, how was his blood brother treated?

Was Benjamin alive, how did they treat him, what was their attitude towards him?

Why give the family history, because no one sensible would send their entire descendants on such a mission, the only logical explanation is that they were telling the truth.

Are they telling the truth, bring him down to find the truth?

3 days in prison, a taste of the life they had subjected him to!

a possible fate, their entire life in prison, would be a just outcome for the action they had initiated.

They are brought out of Jail, because of the fear of God by the leader of Egypt.

This is the only time when guilty people make a Direct confession of sin.

SLIDE

Genesis 42:21-24 (NLT) Speaking among themselves, they said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

22 "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?" Reuben asked. "But you wouldn't listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!"

23 Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. 24 Now he turned away from them and began to weep.

Judah has been recorded with understanding how his actions were less righteous than Tamar's.

Empathy, walking in the shoes of others. When (if ever) have we learned what it is like for another person's point of view to be considered by us?

Intepreters exist, but are rarely mentioned.

We have confession and repentance?

Simeon needed most correction of his character. They weren't overly concerned for him in prison, he wasn't the best loved among them.

A family in dysfunction, Jacob only sees Benjamin as some one of worth, as possible he is all that remains of his favoured wife
Jacob and the family are not a healthy family.

Foolish Reuben- a brash, ungodly promise which can bring no comfort. Reuben makes poor offer, only when Judah steps up and necessity dictates, does Jacob (now called Israel) relent.

The money was another bad sign, that God had placed judgement on them, for if they returned , as surely they must, it would be with the charge of "theft" against them.

Practical, when we face trials we can rely upon Jesus during these times.

SLIDE

Romans 8:26-28 (ESV) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

SLIDE

God uses circumstances to alter our entrenched positions

20 bundles of money /Silver to be taken into Egypt, as opposed to the 20 pieces of silver obtained for selling Joseph

Feeding Benjamin, how did they react? They obviously had a love for this brother.

Practical.

We are called to forgive.

We are called to reconcile

SLIDE

Mark 11:25 (NLT) But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”

Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT) “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, 24 leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

SLIDE

We need to reconcile from a place of safety when abuse has taken place. It is fine to test the waters, to see if the person has changed their position and behaviour, if we have come with the right attitude (we have forgiven and we desire to see that reconciliation)