

Sept 20, 2020



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
When it comes to problems, the way out is to trust God on the way through.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Lord Jesus, Your ultimate victory in this fallen world is assured, and You ask us to share in it each day of our lives. By Your grace, enable us to overcome the world through faith and obedience to You

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith
(1 John 5:4 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", June 18, 2016)

Series: Love For One Another

UNIT: Struggles with Love

NEXT WEEK

Revealed Love
(Gen 45:1-8, 10-15)

Victorious Love **Genesis 42:6-25**

Lesson Background and Introduction

When the Egyptians began to feel the effects of the predicted famine, they cried out to Pharaoh for relief. Pharaoh sent them to Joseph (Genesis 41:55), whom he had appointed to prepare Egypt for the years of famine. The famine, however, affected lands other than Egypt as well. As a result, "all the world" came to Egypt to buy food (41:57). Joseph's homeland was among those, and Jacob urged his sons to travel to Egypt and purchase food (42:1-2). Joseph had settled into life in Egypt, secure in his powerful position. He had married and started a family. He had taken over the responsibility of providing grain for those who had traveled from near and far to Egypt because of the severe famine that had ravaged many countries. It was business as usual for Joseph until he looked up and saw a group of 10 men dressed like he used to be when he lived in Canaan. And then he realized—these were his brothers! They too had come to Egypt to buy grain. That Joseph's motives for acting as he did toward his brothers were not rooted in selfishness or vindictiveness is seen most of all in his tears. He could not control his emotions when he learned that Reuben had actually intended to spare his life. Though the brothers did not know it, the governor of Egypt was already planning how to see his father again and keep his whole family safe. While Joseph was hiding his true identity from his brothers, his declaration that "I fear God" was the truth. The brothers did not realize what a comfort that declaration should have been to them. Joseph's tears revealed his heart for all time.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

God's Providential Hand - Pharaoh assigned Joseph as governor in Egypt. Joseph immediately instructed the Egyptians to collect grain and food during the country's seven years of plenty in preparation for the coming seven years of famine. Because of God's intervention and Joseph's wise leadership during the time of famine, the nation had a surplus, enabling them to aid surrounding regions. Joseph's brothers, who sold him into slavery, ended up bowing before him, asking for his help. Joseph's story continues to teach profound lessons about love, forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation. The brothers unwittingly ended up on their faces before Joseph just as he prophetically dreamed as a youth. On this occasion, Joseph kept his identity hidden as he asked the brothers several questions concerning their homeland and family, accusing them of spying.

God Requires a Repentant Heart - Even though Joseph immediately recognized his brothers, he prolonged his unveiling. He wanted to see if their perceptions and attitudes about their offense against him had changed, if there was any indication of repentance. The brothers reasoned with Joseph; they were not spying but only had come to purchase food. They were true men from Canaan; their father (Jacob) had 12 sons. One remained with him, and the other one was dead. Joseph demanded they go back home and get Benjamin to prove their honesty. The brothers finally concluded: we are being punished for our mistreatment of Joseph. This indicated that their minds often revisited their cruel act. Before his very eyes, Joseph could see God's work in the life of his brothers. Instead of continuing to be hard and justify their hateful actions, their hearts were being softened.

Confession: the Road to Reconciliation - Sadly, family or friends attempt to mend broken relationships without the offending party admitting they're wrong and without a commitment to respond differently. This usually results in more pain, victimization, disappointment, and no visible evidence of genuine love; therefore, reconciliation is superficial or impossible.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Love Through Not Failing Accusations (Gen 42:6-17)

Accusations of motives for coming (6-8)

- Motives that are against the righteous (Ps 37:12)
- Motives of conspiracy (Ps 64:2)
- Motives of injustice (Ps 64:6)
- Motives of deception and evil (Prov 12:20)
- Motives of iniquity and defrauding (Mic 2:1-2)

Accusations of deceptions (9-14)

- Deception through lies (Ps 5:6)
- Deception through evilness (1 Peter 3:10-12)
- Deception will keep one from dwelling in God's house (Ps 101:7)
- Deception by wicked men (Ps 43:1)
- Deception through empty words (Eph 5:6)
- Deception through human philosophy (Col 2:8)

Accusations of lying (15-17)

- Lies that come from and influenced by Satan (John 8:44)
- Lies that are part of the wicked attempts of the unrighteous (Ex 23:1)
- Lies and false matters that should be stayed away from (Ex 23:7)
- Lies that are generated against those who follow Jesus (Matt 5:11)
- Lies by those who want to destroy Christianity (Matt 26:59-61)

Love Through Not Failing Testing (Gen 42:18-25)

Testing of honesty (18-20)

- Honesty that comes from God (Prov 16:11)
- Honesty that pleases God (1 Chron 29:17)
- Honesty that God rewards (Luke 16:10-11)
- Honesty that is summed up by the golden rule (Matt 7:12)
- Honesty before God and man (Acts 24:16)
- Honesty that is trusted (2 Cor 8:19-21)

Testing of brothers repentance (21-23)

- Repentance proven by the "changing of one's mind" (Matt 21:28-29)
- Repentance that is part of forgiveness (Acts 2:28)
- Repentance that is a path to life (Acts 11:18)
- Repentance through godly sorrow (2 Cor 7:10-11)
- Repentance that God desires (2 Peter 3:9)
- Repentance that leads to the truth (2 Tim 2:25)

Testing responded by mercy (24-25)

- Mercy that is prompted by love (Ps 89:28-33)
- Mercy that comes from serving God's purposes (Acts 13:34-37)
- Mercy that endures forever (Ps 106:1)
- Mercy that is shown through God's discipline (Prov 3:11-12)
- Mercy that comes from God being with us (Jer 30:11)
- Mercy that is commanded for Christians (Eph 4:32)