

## Dreamer: The Life of Joseph A Study in Genesis 37-50

A Reckoning  
Genesis 42:1-38  
July 11, 2021

Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood." - Genesis 42:22

### I. DOWN TO EGYPT...DOWN ON THEIR FACES

- A trip to Egypt was probably not relished by Joseph's brothers. Dubious memories would accompany them along the way (Gen. 37:18-33, 42:21-22).
- Jacob refuses to entrust Benjamin, his youngest son, to the care of ten brothers who did not protect Joseph.
- After twenty plus years of waiting, Joseph's dreams become reality, and he remembers (Gen. 42:9).

### II. PAST MISTAKES...PRESENT SORROWS

- Two decades did not erase the guilt Joseph's brother's endured for the injustice they perpetrated (Gen. 42:21).
- Not all sins are paid for in eternity. Poor decisions can haunt us in this life as well (2 Sam. 12:11-14, 24:10-13; 1 Cor. 3:11).
- Some difficulties in our lives are self-inflicted, some via the providence of God, and sometimes we cannot discern the "why?" (Isa. 45:6-7; Acts 5:1-11; John 9:1-3).
- God's forgiveness does not always mean we will not live with consequences for our sin (2 Sam. 12:14; Acts 15:36-38; 1 Cor. 5:4-5).

### III. WE STILL SIN, NOW WHAT?

- Conviction and rebuke is a blessing to the believer. Do not brush it aside. Changed hearts make for changed lives (Prov. 1:23, 10:17, 12:1, 15:32, 29:1; Psalm 141:5; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:17).
- Let conviction do its work. Mature Christians make better decisions than immature Christians (1 Cor. 3:1-3; Eph. 4:11-16).
- God is a just God. Wrongs will be made right (Eccl. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 10:30-31).
- God is a merciful God, and Jesus died to make things right (Isa. 53:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 Tim. 1:15; 1 John 2:2).

**KNOW:** God is a great redeemer. He fixes many broken things. Nevertheless, sin still finds us out. Conviction for that sin is a gift, not a curse. It leads to hope...and a way out.

**DO:** Allow conviction to work in your life for your good.

#### Suggested Reading:

*Discipline: The Glad Surrender* by Elisabeth Elliott (LifePoint Library #248.4)

*The Grace and Truth Paradox* by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #248.4 ALC)

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please Read Genesis 42:1-38

1. In what ways is this narrative in Genesis concerning Joseph demonstrating that God is always with his people?
2. Why do you think Joseph's brothers immediately feel that they are being punished for what they did to him, and not for any of the numerous other sins they had committed?
3. If you feel comfortable doing so, share some present consequences you face due to past mistakes.
4. How do we see Joseph already moving to care for his brothers and demonstrate his forgiveness in chapter 42 (see verses 19; 25-26). Why do you think he does this?
5. Why doesn't God just give us a fresh start when we come to know him and remove all the consequences of our sins? Does he do that spiritually at least? (2 Cor. 5:17).
6. What are some steps you have taken to put your past in the past?