

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 26TH November 2023

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles

Ps/Hymns Ps34v1-6 T -Antioch, 7, 204 T of 526,

Read: Genesis 43:1-9 Text Genesis 43:1-9

Series: Joseph Title: Judah's Past, Priority & Pledge

From **Genesis 42:29-Genesis 43:15** the scene leaves Joseph personally and deals with Joseph's demands upon his brothers as they communicate those demands to their father Jacob.

There is a general conversation with Jacob and his sons, and then particular focus concerning the conversation between Judah and Jacob himself.

In these conversations, Jacob ***said unto them, go again and buy us a little food.***

The food the brothers brought from Egypt had now come to an end, and since the famine was sore in the land, meaning there was great hunger, then if there was no provision, soon they would perish in the famine.

However, Judah responds, that he is willing to go to Egypt and buy food, but he repeats the message given by the Lord of the land, ***The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. ⁴ If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: ⁵ But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.***

Judah is stating to his father the terms, the requirement, the command, the law, by the lawgiver, to be honoured and if they are rejected, they will perish in the famine.

To come to Joseph without Benjamin, is to be rejected and to be sent away to die due to the effects of the famine.

Therefore, men and woman once again the gospel message is made clear, Christ is set before you.

God's way of reconciling sinners to Himself is through Jesus Christ.

God demands that the command He gave to man to obey His law be carried out.

Since man disobeyed God's law and is unable to meet God's requirement of personal and perfect obedience then God has provided for man one who did obey His law, and that was the man Christ Jesus.

Christ by His life and death has satisfied or honoured God's just demands.

God will accept sinners only if they approach Him in Jesus name and merit.

To have acceptance with God one must come through faith in Christ, because there is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.

Therefore, to refuse the gospel, to reject God's terms of how He is to be approached, is to perish due to the effects of sin, but come to Him as He has said and you shall live.

In others words, you will not see God's face expect Christ be with you.

Judah tells his father, the sovereign's message and I rejoice to read later that Jacob submitted the message and sends Benjamin with Judah, and all were truly blessed by Joseph the Lord of the land, the governor of Egypt.

He provided for them and preserved them on a human level from perishing in the famine.

So it is with all who surrender to God's message of grace, they are truly, spiritually, and eternally blessed, as He provided a perfect garment of salvation to put away their sin and to preserve their life from the wrath of God that awaits every sinner who dies without Christ as Saviour.

Today, we will see the grace of God working in Judah's life and see the transformation the gospel brings to one whose sin is exposed, confessed, and cleansed.

And do keep in mind, these words still fall under Joseph's examination in that he waits to see their return for Simeon, with Benjamin and the money.

I FIRST JUDAH'S PAST

Genesis 43:3 onwards, gives the evidence of Judah's change.

Remember when we were introduced to Judah's life as seen by his dealings with Joseph. Judah was a greedy man, self-centred, and rebellious.

In Genesis 37:18-19 Judah with his brothers conspired against Joseph to kill him.

In Genesis 37:26, Judah is the one who talked his brothers out of killing Joseph and into selling him as a slave for money instead.

In Genesis 37:31-35 Judah was part of the lie to their father Jacob giving a false impression Joseph was killed by an animal.

In Genesis 38 Details Judah's compromise and sin.

Judah's past was marked by wickedness, covetousness, bearing false witness and living a lie.

However, when confronted, challenged, and convicted about his sin against Joseph he along with his brothers confessed they had sinned.

Their confession was examined, to prove was it a spare of the moment confession, words based on emotions at that time or was it genuine.

Was there a work of the flesh or a work of the Spirit in Judah's life.

The evidence from ch 42:29 through ch 44 bears witness there was a work of grace in his heart.

Therefore, believer, our past was full of sin and corruption. Paul said to the church at Ephesus, in **Ephesians 2:1** ***And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;***

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

However, ***God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins,***

hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Christ took our past sins and blotted them out for His own name's sake, and made us a new creature in Christ, He put within our hearts a new way of living.

This is the same with **Ruth** who trusted in God by turning from her idols.

Matthew, was tax collector for the Roman government. He was a thief, a liar and a cheat, as Zacchaeus, but God saved these men and used them for His glory.

Paul by his own testimony, he was guilty of terrible and gross sins, but he received mercy from the Lord.

The point is all, these lives had been bound in sin and known for various types of wickedness and scandalous, sin that you were or are not known for committing,

but reality is, whether one lives on the unrighteous side of the broad road involved in various kind of sins,

or the self-righteous side of the broad, keeping principles, both are equally on the broad road that leads to destruction.

However, having been called by grace, their sin is as such as forgiven as your sin. Their guilt and crimes have been cast behind the Saviour back, as yours have.

The moment you were saved and washed in the blood of the Lamb, His precious blood cancelled your past sin and every stain has been washed away, every accusation silenced, every criminal case closed, all prison garments removed and replaced with new garments, the robe of righteousness.

The devil tries to bring up your past, it's a dirty and muddy past, you tell him in Jesus name I don't live in the past in live in grace,

the flesh tries to pull you back into the world, therefore, answer the flesh by the Spirit no turning back no turning back, the world behind me the cross before me, no falling backward, but following onward.

I first Judah's Past.

II SECOND, JUDAH'S PRIORITY

In **verses 3-7** Judah's priorities have changed. There is a new desire, a way of living, he desires to obey Joseph's words.

Judah says to his father they cannot return to Egypt to buy more grain unless they take Benjamin with them.

Now in taking these words as they stand, it is amazing to see Judah's progress, in that he is dying to self.

You see Judah, is no longer concerned about himself. His primary focus is no longer what he wants, how he feels and what he thinks or how to make money, or how to make a new plan.

First and foremost he is taken up with obeying Joseph's words, ***The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you***

Also, Judah is concerned about the rest of the family. He knows they need food or they will all starve and die.

He is concerned about the future of the family, and that's why he states in **verse 4** ***4 If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:***

Also, Judah is concerned about Simeon who remains in Egypt. Judah knows they cannot bring Simeon home without going back to Egypt with Benjamin.

Judah is not filled with self, rather he wants to do right the right way, he wants to free Simeon, provide for the family, bring Benjamin as required by Joseph.

Judah's priority was to obey the Lord of the land.

Therefore, believer when we were saved by grace, redeemed by precious blood, there was given by the Lord new priorities to serve Him.

There was a new life to walk and new song to sing. Our priority was no long self, but what pleases Christ.

The Lord is shaping our lives as we press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The more we spend time with Him in His word, and as He expounds in the scriptures the things concerning Himself, and ***by the mercies of God, we present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable service.***

For the life that I now live I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The greatest example of putting priorities right is the Lord Jesus Christ, who came not to do His own will but the will of Him that sent Him.

Christ's priority was to glorify God in His life and in giving eternal life to sinners given to Him.

Christ put God's honour first, obeying His word, that through His life and blood sinners will be saved from eternal separation.

Therefore, believer seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Put Christ first in all things, follow Him, and be blessed.

I first Judah's Past V3

II second, Judah's Priority. V3-7

III THIRD AND FINALLY JUDAH'S PLEDGE V8-9.

verses 8-9 ⁸ ***And Judah said unto Israel his father, Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go; that we may***

live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones. ⁹ I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever.

To obey the Governor of Egypt, Judah willingly offers Himself to his father, to take full responsibility for Benjamin, giving the meaning of the word **Surety** spoken in **verse 9**.

Judah's pledge is to guarantee the safe return of Benjamin back home to his father.

If Judah fails then he will bear the blame, the guilt and punishment.

Judah is taking responsibility for Benjamin's life. He is making himself accountable to his father to do all that is required to bring Benjamin safely home.

What a glorious picture there is in Judah's words that point to Jesus Christ who came from the house of Judah, as the surety of sinners.

Jesus Christ willingly pledged to the Father, in the everlasting covenant of grace to make Himself accountable for His people and take full responsibility for their sins, and guarantee their safe arrival home to the Father in glory.

This is glorious gospel news which brings home to our heart the assurance of salvation.

Christ was accepted as our Surety in the covenant of grace before the world began to fulfil His pledge in time with everlasting benefits.

The authorisation of salvation was then and there settled forever in the great eternal counsel of the Godhead, when the Father gave a people unto the Son, and **the accomplishment of that salvation** was in time. **2 Timothy 1:9** says, "**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy**

calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”

All the sins of God’s chosen people were imputed to Him or viewed and treated as His, in the mind and purpose of God. He became responsible for them, in time He fulfilled that obligation and now we are accepted by God in Him.

To God’s people, **the application** of the blessing and benefits of Christ’s suretyship are received and enjoyed through the power of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead.

Sinner you must come now to Christ the Surety as lead by the Holy Spirit. If you will not have the Saviour to pay all your debt of your sin, you will pay for it yourself, the obligation will rest upon you in hell.

And it not that you are paying your debt out of hell, rather you are paying for the consequence your offence against God, which is eternal death.

This is why you must come at once to the Saviour without delay and claim the rewards of His suretyship for all who believe in Him.