

TRAVELING THE ROAD TO REPENTANCE {Genesis 42}

1. The key truth about GOD from the story of Joseph involves learning about His amazing sovereign and gracious _____ in _____ His PEOPLE {the nation of Israel} in keeping with His PROMISES.
2. The key principle for YOU to learn involves recognizing that regardless of your ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, by God's grace you can _____ in God's unfailing PROVIDENTIAL CARE so as to be _____ to Him wherever you are.

A. The FAMINE in CANAAN. (42:1-5)

- What was the means God would use to accomplish His purposes?
- How does God use the famine in their lives?
- Why didn't Jacob's sons propose this plan? Why did Jacob not send Benjamin?
- How far & long of a trip was it from Canaan to Egypt?
- What can we learn from financial security from all this?

B. The ENCOUNTER in EGYPT. (42:6-24)

1. Joseph's *recognition of his brothers*. {42:6-8}

- Had God prepared Joseph for this day? How many years had passed since he was sold into slavery?
- Was it an "accident" that Joseph was present when his brothers arrived? Did he anticipate this?
- Why didn't they recognize Joseph?
- How was this a test for Joseph? What else did he perceive?

2. Joseph's *remembrance of his dreams*. {42:9}

- Was this a complete fulfillment of his dreams? How would this have been an encouragement to him?
- What sustained Joseph spiritually during all these trials?

3. Joseph's *rough questioning of his brothers*. {42:10-13}

- Why did Joseph do this to his brothers?
- What did Joseph do next? What is the significance of accusing them to be "spies"?
- How did they deny this accusation? What did his questioning reveal?
- What do we need to remember about forgiveness, change, and restoration?

4. **Joseph's re-enacted test for his brothers. {42:14-20}**

- What is interesting about all this?
- Why did Joseph change his mind and soften the test? What would this accomplish?
- What did Joseph still require of them?

5. **Joseph's realization of his brother's recognized guilt. {42:21-24}**

- What was happening in their consciences?
- What new information are we learning?
- What immediately do they fix as to the cause for these trials?
- How does Reuben react to all this?
- How does Joseph respond upon hearing all this?
- What happened next to Simeon and why him?

C. **The Return to Canaan. (42:25-38)**

1. **Joseph's provisions for his family. {42:25-28}**

- Why did Joseph do this and what does God do to us at times?
- Instead of joy, what did this result in? What probing question do they now ask?

2. **Jacob's reaction to their story. {42:29-36}**

- Did the brothers finally come clean about what they had done to Joseph?
- How does Jacob react to the news? Was this a DVP response or a HVP reaction?
- Did Jacob's reactions help or hinder the trials they were facing?
- What 3 responses or reactions do we see to suffering in this story thus far?

3. **Reuben's irrational proposal to his dad. {42:37}** What does this bring out?

4. **Jacob's refusal to let Benjamin go. {42:38}** What again does this surface about Jacob?

Some closing thoughts: