

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 11th February 2024

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles

Hymns Ps 146:1-8 T How deep the Father's love, 286, 7

Read: Genesis 43:11-16 Text Genesis 43:11-26.

Series: Joseph Title: Giving To The Sovereign (3) Their preparation, path & prostration.

Israel in preparing his sons to meet the sovereign ruler of Egypt, **prepared his sons to give the best fruit of the land, a present, and payment which returned the money that did not belong to them but to give extra to buy corn.**

Their giving would only be accepted in obedience to the sovereign's royal command, to come with Benjamin,

but come without Benjamin and you will not see my face, which at this time of great famine meant to perish in the famine.

There is a gospel lesson, all our giving of self, talents, time, finances, will only be accepted by the sovereign King of heaven when we enter His presence through Christ,

however, without Christ we will not see His face, meaning our giving will be in vain, unaccepted, but for you unsaved it will mean to perish.

You can give yourself to church activities, you can give your finances to church causes, but if you don't come to God through Christ, in obedience to His word, you will suffer rejection.

Notice, then:

4 They prepared to give precisely- **V13** **Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:**

The Lord of the land, possessed **riches, silver, gold, power, position, servants**, what else could Israel's sons present to him, and the answer lies in one command which was bring their Brother.

Joseph is the Sovereign of the land, Pharaoh has given all authority into Joseph's hand. **Gen 41:40, according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled. Verse 55 what he saith to you, do.**

What command did Joseph give his brothers to obey,

(Genesis 42:16 "Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother..." verse 18 "And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:)

Genesis 42:20 bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die..."

They knew the command must be obeyed, as they said in **Genesis 43:3 The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.**

There is no confusion with Joseph's words, and there is full understanding with the brothers.

Joseph demanded obedience to this one command as the only way to live. Obey my word and live, but disobey and you will not see my face.

Having prepared to give many offerings of respect, Israel then said to his sons, **V13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:** and that is what they precisely did, they brought Benjamin to Joseph, but they also came to Joseph by Benjamin.

They had access to Joseph and entrance to his house only through Benjamin.

Obedience is the key, as to obey is better than to sacrifice. To have access to Lord of the land and his provision they must come on his terms, they must give precisely what he required.

That is a lesson men and woman we must learn when coming before the Sovereign King. We approach Him on His terms in obedience to His word, not on our terms.

Otherwise, the Lord says of you as He said of the people in **Matthew 15:8** *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”*

Remember the man who asked Christ in **Mark 10**, *what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?* Christ responded by obeying God’s law, but the young man believed himself to have obeyed the law all his life, and wanted to know what else he had to do.

Verse 21-22 *Then Jesus beholding him, loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.²² And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*

The man had failed to obey, to do the one thing asked, why because he coveted his possessions, he wouldn’t surrender anything to obey and follow Christ. He was greedy and self righteousness.

He never seen Himself lacking the one thing required, He never seen He must come to God by the work and righteousness of another, by faith alone in Christ alone.

To be saved from sin you must give God precisely what He requires, and that is confession of sin, turning from sin and asking for forgiveness.

They were commanded to come to the sovereign with Benjamin, and they came the way appointed.

Verse 15 *And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.*

They obeyed Joseph’s words, they gave **precisely** and were later blessed. **verse 16** *And when Joseph saw Benjamin with*

them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

Men and Woman consider Christ and blessings found in Him.

To come into His presence, in truth, is acceptable in His sight.

To unbelievers, don't be a hearer only of the word but be a doer of the word.

Step out on the promise of word, for where there is obedience to Christ's word there will be blessing in eternal salvation.

Having considered the preparation in giving to the sovereign. Notice.

II SECOND, THE PATH IN GIVING TO THE SOVEREIGN

¹⁵ And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

They set out on the road to Egypt to meet the Sovereign.

But what is striking to see, ***the sovereignty of God working through Israel in the gifts to be carried down and presented.***

Once again, they point to the path that lead to the humiliation of Joseph and they illustrate the path that lead to the humiliation of Jesus.

The Present.

When they took down a present, they were giving a gift to the Lord of the land who unknown to them is Joseph.

That present we said in a previous study was suited to the one it was given, the ruler and sovereign, to acknowledge His person, position, and pre-eminence.

That is interesting, because in Genesis 37, Joseph received a present from his father, a coat of many colours and that coat was given to Joseph as one suited to lead the family, one who the Father loved and set apart. One in high position and pre-eminent above all others.

Yet in **Genesis 37:23** *And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;* They rejected his person, position and pre-eminence given by the father.

Spices

Genesis 43:11 *a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:* these are the possessions recorded in **Genesis 37:25** *behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.*

This was time Joseph suffered, sorrowed and was sold by his brothers. We learn in a precious study how these were used to teach Christ's life, death, burial and resurrection.

Money

Verse 15 *take double money in your hand. The extra or double money was to buy corn.*

But also, notice, as we don't know the exact amount, but we read phrases such as every man his money (Gen 44:1) It speaks of large sum of money.

*How much did the brothers sell Joseph for? **Genesis 37:28** and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver.*

Son

Genesis 43, They are to take Benjamin into Egypt and give him to another namely the Lord of the land.

Genesis 37:25-28

The point is this, Joseph was given to another into Egypt, the brothers, failed to bring him home.

All these are reminders of the path which Joseph travelled before them as they despised and rejected him, yet trusting in God's sovereignty, Joseph said in **Genesis 50:19-20** *And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto*

good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

God worked through Joseph to save His people.

What a picture we have pointing to Christ's sufferings due to our sin. We hated Christ without a cause. We saw no beauty in Him that we should desire Him.

He was despised, rejected, betrayed and sold for money which was 30 pieces of silver.

He travelled the path of suffering on our behalf, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross.

Christ could say **ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**

I am in the place of God by the words, of **John 6:38** **For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**

Christ's path to the cross of suffering and shame, saved much people alive. He came to save a remnant according to the election of grace.

Therefore, it is a reminder it was my sin that nailed Him there, it was my sin and sorrow that He bore on His own body on the tree. Yet it was for me He died, for me He cried, for me He shed His blood upon the tree, It was for me He came for me His shame, Oh praise His name it was for me. He loved me and gave Himself for me, to bring me unto God.

The Preparation, the Path:

III THIRD, THE PROSTRATION IN GIVING TO THE SOVEREIGN V26

And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.

This verse is the fulfilment of Joseph's dream concerning his brothers.

In **Genesis 37:7** ***"For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf."***

Now we may read this and say what does that mean, however, **verse 8** confirms that Joseph's brethren knew what the words meant. ***And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us?***

It was simple and plain language.

Joseph used the language and illustration of the field. Joseph's sheaf, his stack of grain, was standing up, placed upright, whereas the sheaves or bundles of grain belonging to his brothers are in a lower position.

It meant that Joseph one day will be exalted and will rule over his brethren.

Joseph will be elevated whereas his brothers will be in a low position.

His brethren understood the dream, but refused to accept it, as **verse 8** teaches.

In **Genesis 42:6** ***"And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth."***

Once again, Joseph's life points to Jesus Christ.

In Matthew Gospel when the wise men entered into the house, **Matthew 2:11** they ***fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.***

The words **fell down** are important. They indicate that the wise men were not sitting or kneeling but of full-length prostration to spread out, to get down low, in the act of worshipping Christ the King.

The idea is the humbling of man before God and the exaltation of Christ to the highest place.

The wise men were prostrate before the young child in surrender for they knew Him to be King, but also King of their lives. They recognised Him as monarch of their heart.

(They fell down in service to the King of all creation. They were members in His Kingdom. They fully understood, His Lordship, sovereignty, power; and right as King. They recognised that they were subject to Him; responsible and accountable to Him who is the King of the nations; so they fell down in surrender to worship the King in His first coming.)

If you notice, at the start of the chapter Herod and others did not come to worship Christ as King.

They refused Christ as rightful King. (is this you)

It's amazing that Joseph's dream meant his brethren would bow before him, but they refused, however, scripture was fulfilled in **Genesis 42:6** and **Genesis 43:26** ***And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.***

There is coming a day when Christ will come, and scripture will be fulfilled and all will bow, as revealed by **Philippians 2:10-11** ***That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."***

How you must come now in faith and urgency and confess Jesus is Lord and surrender to Him as your Lord and Master.

Better to bow and worship Him on earth and be comforted by His presence through life and in heaven, than to bow and wail and be tormented by His presence in hell.