

# SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Afternoon

Date 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles

Ps. Hymns Ps 130 Martyrdom, Hymn 5, 63

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

Series: Joseph Title: Giving To The Sovereign (2) Their preparation

In Genesis chapter 43, Israel prepares his son to travel again to Egypt, to meet the sovereign ruler over Egypt, and therefore instruction concerns their giving to the Sovereign.

Israel counsels his sons to give certain things of great value.

*In their Preparation to give to the Sovereign, Israel instructed his sons to take of the best fruits in the land, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds*

Such items were used by businessmen going to Egypt, confirming their expense and value, as shown in **Genesis 37:25**.

We also lifted our minds to things above and made application, that each one symbolised the person and gospel ministry of Jesus Christ, in his life, death, burial, and resurrection.

To prepare a people to meet the KING of Kings, the sovereign Lord of things in heaven, and things in the earth and things under the earth, God gave the greatest and perfect gift to save sinners. Christ's life and blood is of infinite value, He is incomparable in all His worth, works, word, and ways. There is none like unto Him.

Therefore, as we make application in meeting with the Sovereign of the world, Christ the head of the church, and in giving to Him,

one of the greatest lessons any Father, parent, children's worker can teach their children, or any Pastor a congregation is to give your best to the Sovereign Christ.

You have only one life to live never withhold it from God.

For Christ has given us an example that we should follow His steps, He gave His best to His father in delighting to do His will, to reconcile sinners by purchasing the church with His own blood.

Unsaved, in preparing a people to meet the Lord, I must warn you to flee the wrath to come, by beholding the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

Christ is not only able to save your life from sin, but to give you life to enjoy.

Notice also,

**2 They prepared to give a present. V11...and carry down the man a present...**

These words spoken by Israel are interesting because the man who is Lord of the land, has **riches, silver, gold, power, position, servants**, what else could Israel's sons present to him.

The answer, is what he required of them, obedience to His word.

Again, going back to the sons report of what took place when meeting this man the first time. **Genesis 42:30-31** <sup>30</sup> **The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.** <sup>31</sup> **And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:**

The sons are accused of being spies, untrustworthy, and dishonouring men, no respect for others, but self centred and self seeking.

And we know this because unknown to the brothers, the man is Joseph and Joseph has only known his brothers to be untrustworthy, and deceitful men.

Therefore, by this gift presented, it will show these men come to give their loyalty, and reverence not to challenge or harm.

The word **present** carries the idea of “**a gift expressing loyalty to a superior**”, it refers to a present, treasure, something of great value that is suited to the person receiving this present.

Don't forget the one receiving this present **is the lord of the land**, a man of authority, leadership, and sovereignty.

Therefore, the present taken to the Lord of the land will be one suited to his Royal position, it will reflect his sovereign rule. It will be a present that will honour him.

Now we don't know exactly what this present is.

There are some who suggest what follows the present, is **a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds**: meaning this present consists of these things just mentioned, and again that view is fine, but I do not see it that way,

I think they are separate items from this particular present.

So, I'm saying there was the present, and then after these other items given.

This **present** or word **present** is mentioned 3 more times in this **chapter 43. V15 And the men took that present....**,

**v25 And they made ready the present against Joseph... V26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand...**”

The point is this, Israel instructs his sons not only to take **the best fruits in the land** but also, **carry down the man a present...**”, a present suited to one who **is the lord of the land the sovereign**.

***By their gift the brothers are expressing to honour the Lord of the land, to submit to his requests.***

***Therefore, believer as we lift our minds heavenward, we give our best to the sovereign over all lands, and honour Him by presenting ourselves to Him and our gifts and talents.***

***We give Him a present that is suited to His Authority which is worship, obedience, and service.***

***This is illustrated by the wise men who came to worship Christ the King.***

***Remember the wise men came to worship Christ the new born King, they came bow in praise to Him, and we read in***

***Matthew 2:11 and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.***

Now before we continue, I make no apology for repeating this statement each time we read this verse.

In the house where the Saviour King dwelt, the wise men did not worship Mary, nor did they worship Christ and Mary, nor did they worship Christ through Mary, nor did they give anything to Mary to give to Christ.

Rather they came straight to Christ because He alone is the only Mediator between God and men.

But notice, the treasures they opened and presented to Him as **gold, and frankincense and myrrh**, were gifts suited to Him as only Mediator of His people in His role as Prophet, Priest and King.

Christ is King shown by the Gold, as God was given to Kings in the Bible.

Christ is Priest shown by the Frankincense as the name means white or pure, and it was used by the priest as they prayed on the basis of the shed blood, Christ is the great High Priest, who prays on the ground of His blood.

And Christ is Prophet shown by the Myrrh, since Christ preached of death, and burial, His body was anointed with Myrrh.

Just as the present presented to Joseph, or the man, was suited to acknowledge, His Role as Lord and Sovereign of the land, therefore, believer, in coming to meet our Sovereign Lord,

Jesus Christ, not only must we give our best, and the best that we have, but also give Him a present, a gift that is suited to His Position as Head of the Church, God Almighty, KING of Kings and LORD of Lords, and to acknowledge, Christ in His Value, Virtue and Victory as **Rev 5: 9** “**Thou art worthy.**” **Verse 12** “**Worthy is the Lamb.**”

What can we give to one who owns everything, created all things, obey His word, acknowledging He owns everything, and worship Him.

It is as Paul said of the believers at Corinth, in **2 Cor 8:5** who “**first gave their own selves to the Lord,**”

Believer present your life a living sacrifice to God, present yourself your family to Him. *Take my life and let be consecrated Lord to thee. the last verse, Take my love my Lord I pour, At thy feet its treasure store, Take myself and I will be, Ever only all for thee.* (Hymn 490)

**Ps 95:1-3** **O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. <sup>2</sup> Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**”

**In Preparing to Meet the Sovereign of the land, they prepared to give the best produce, they prepared to give a present:**

**3 They prepared to give payment. V12 And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:**

Whenever the brothers returned from Egypt the first time, we read in **Genesis 42:35** ***And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.***

The word **afraid** means ***terrified, to tremble, to shake.***

Remember in the over all context, the money is part of Joseph's examination to see what the brethren will do with the money, can they be trusted, have they changed by their confession, or will they say nothing keep it for themselves.

He is giving them an opportunity to bear witness and to give evidence of a good confession. Here is the opportunity to testify of honesty.

Israel in his wisdom said, ***carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:***

From this human point, Israel is saying to his sons this money doesn't belong to you, it's not yours to use as you want, for it belongs to another, give it back from whence it came, namely, the Lord of the land, **but take another amount, extra with you the same as before in order to buy corn.**

The phrase ***peradventure it was an oversight:*** means ***it was given unaware or accidental.*** That's From Israel and his sons point of view, But we know Joseph gave this money with purpose to see that they would do with the money.

He ordered to give it to them.

That's why he uses the words, **and take double money** which means **the second money** or **the same amount as they did when they came the first time**.

But here is thing, when they return the money, Joseph, rewarded them, because their confession was evidenced by the fruit of their life and giving. Their life showed there had been a change.

They gave when before they stole. They gave back when before they only took.

They are brought into Joseph's house, but all the time they fear thinking we are going to get accused of stealing the money, and from **verses 17-22** they explain what how they got this money.

But Joseph's servants **said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them.**

For their honesty and witnessing before Joseph a good confession they were blessed and received an abundance of blessings of land, possessions, houses, and employment, They were nourished, Their needs were met by the sovereign ruler.

The money Joseph gave was on purpose and for a purpose.

**There are many lessons from this**, but allow me to give two thoughts.

God gives to His people on purpose and with purpose, there is no oversight with God's eternal, infinite wisdom and supply in Christ.

God's supplies for His people are never mistakes, rather He fills our sacks with treasure for various reasons.

One to testify of a life changed by grace, and developed goodly character, to be honest in our dealings with money in life and work, as seen in the gospel transforming power in Zacchaeus life, recorded in Luke 19.

Before salvation, Zacchaeus was dishonest, stole money, and cheated people out of money, but by grace, he returned what he stole, and proved a good report.

But also, there is a sense, that the treasures that GOD gives, does not belong to us in the sense to use it carelessly, or to waste, or hold from God as Ananias, with Sapphira his wife did in Acts 5, lying about money and what they did with the Lord's money.

Rather the Lord gives to His people supplies. He blesses them with treasures, to be good Stewards, He entrusts His people in order for them to give to Him again, and to give cheerfully, sacrificially to Him, the best, and in return He gives to them again.

The bank or storehouse of heaven knows no recession, or restrictions, rather Christ gives and gives and gives again.

He fills the cup overflowing. He is all sufficient. There is no want to them that trust in Him.

**We receive from the Lord, to give to the Lord, to receive again from the Lord, to give again to the Lord.**

Unbeliever, Christ gave His life that you might have everlasting life.