

Series: after the beginning
“The Amazing Power of True Forgiveness”
Part One Review: A Famine In Canaan
(What True and Authentic Forgiveness Looks Like)
Genesis 42:1-35

MBC:AM; 08-14/21-11; 0177 / 0178

Introduction:

1. When needing to forgive or be forgiven awaken your seared conscience. Don't ignore or pretend you haven't sinned against God or others. **Genesis 42:1; Romans 3:23**
2. Understand that God often uses famine in our lives to stir within us a hunger that only He can fill. Don't try and fill your emptiness with things you know won't satisfy. **Genesis 42:2-5; Amos 4:11,12; Romans 6:23**
3. Don't forget to remember the unresolved sins of your past. Sin like a stain on your soul cannot be cleansed without the proper cleansing agent. **Genesis 37:5-11, 42:6; Romans 4:21-31**
4. Learn to respect the law of cause and effect. Don't be surprised when you are given the same tests you inflict on others. **Genesis 42:7-16; Romans 2:11-16**
5. Tune your heart to hear God in the prison cell of solitude. God often uses imprisonment away from the busyness of our lives to cause us to reflect on our desperate need and His displeasure. **Genesis 42:16-23; Romans 1:18-32**
6. Take a close look at what you see and a closer look at what you can't see. Seek to know and understand what God has designed from His perspective, for our good and for His glory. **Genesis 42:24-27; Romans 5:8**
7. Learn to fear God for yourself. There are no coincidences only providential opportunities created by God for our good and for His glory. **Genesis 42:18,28-35; Romans 3:10-13**
8. Welcome God's grace as yet another opportunity for repentance. Don't misinterpret God's expressions of grace for His mercy and favor. **Genesis 42:35; Romans 2:1-5**
9. Give God your doubts and questions. Know that everything we experience passes through His hand first. **Genesis 42:36-38; Romans 5:9-21**
10. Expect to pay in full your debt against God and others. Don't think your sin is forgotten; Forgive as you have been forgiven. **Genesis 42:1-38; Romans 10:9,10,13; Romans 8:32-39**

Moment of Decision / Practical Applications:

1. **Are you running on empty?** Identify the nature of your famine and ask yourself the question, “What is God up too in my life? What does He want to accomplish through my famine of want?”
2. **What are you filling your life with and how's that working for you? Do you have a clean conscience?** Take a pencil, pen and piece of paper and go before God and ask Him to reveal any un-confessed or unresolved sin in your life. Personal Challenge: Do whatever it takes to resolve whatever God brings to your mind with integrity and complete honesty before God and before men. Write over the sin list **I John 1:9**. Seek to make restitution with anyone you have wronged. Remember that any guilt that remains after your confession to God and to men is from the enemy. **Psalm 103:12; Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; and Romans 8:38,39**
3. **Extend forgiveness from those who have offended you** with the same generosity as you have been forgiven. Speak the truth in love with the intent to restore broken relationships as God has restored and reconciled us to Himself.