



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 27



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE
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DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

Genesis 43 - 45

You Meant It for Evil. God Meant It for Good.

The famine is grinding on. The grain Joseph's brothers brought back from Egypt is gone. Jacob tells them to go back and buy more. And Judah - the same Judah who suggested selling Joseph for twenty pieces of silver - stands before his father and says: I will be a pledge for Benjamin. If I do not bring him back, let me bear the blame before you forever.

Something has changed in Judah. The man who sold his brother is now offering himself as surety for his brother. Twenty years of living with what he did has done something to him. The guilt that the brothers felt when they saw Joseph's distress and did not listen - they said it to each other in Egypt, not knowing Joseph understood them - that guilt has been working on them. And Judah has come out the other side of it willing to pay any price to protect what remains.

God uses time and consequence to do in a person what a single rebuke never could. What guilt began, grace will finish. The man Judah was becoming over twenty years is exactly the man the next moment will require.

They return to Egypt with Benjamin and with double the silver and with gifts. Joseph sees Benjamin and has to leave the room. He goes to his chamber and weeps. Then he washes his face and comes back out and serves them a meal - and seats them in birth order, from the firstborn to the youngest, and the brothers look at each other in astonishment. How does he know?

- They are sitting at the table of the brother they sold, eating food he prepared, in the exact order of their births. They do not know it yet. But everything is already arranged.

The silver cup is placed in Benjamin's sack on Joseph's orders. The brothers leave. They are barely out of the city when Joseph's steward overtakes them. The cup is found in Benjamin's sack. They tear their clothes. They return, all of them, to the city.

And Judah speaks. He speaks for all of them - and his speech is one of the most remarkable in Genesis. He does not make excuses. He does not protest Benjamin's innocence. He says: God has found out the guilt of your servants. He is confessing, in front of this Egyptian official, to something deeper than the cup. He is confessing to what they did twenty years ago. And then he does something extraordinary:

“Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord's slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.”

- Genesis 44:33

Let me be the slave in his place. Judah is offering himself for Benjamin the way Joseph was once abandoned. The one who sold

his brother is now willing to become a slave to save his brother. This is the moment Joseph has been waiting for. This is the answer to the question that has been running through every test: have they changed?

True repentance is not saying sorry. It is becoming the kind of person who would make a different choice. Judah proved his repentance not with words but with an offer that would cost him everything.

And Joseph cannot hold himself together any longer.

He sends everyone out of the room. And then he weeps. Not quietly. The text says the Egyptians heard it. The house of Pharaoh heard it. A sound of grief so long contained that when it finally comes out it fills a building.

And he says: I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?

- Five words after thirteen years. I am Joseph. The brothers cannot answer him. They are dismayed at his presence. They are terrified.

And he says: come close to me. "Do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."

- Genesis 45:5

God sent me ahead of you. Not: you sold me. Not: you destroyed my childhood and cost me thirteen years and left me in a pit. All of that is true. And Joseph is not pretending it wasn't. But he has had

thirteen years to watch God work inside the wreckage his brothers made - and what he sees, looking back, is not abandonment. It is architecture. God was building something through the betrayal that the brothers could not have built with their love.

Joseph's statement is not the denial of his suffering. It is the theological reframing of it. He did not minimise what his brothers did. He saw what God did with what his brothers did. Those are not the same thing. And it is the second seeing that sets you free.

He tells them: hurry. Go to my father. Tell him God has made me lord of all Egypt. Bring him here. Five more years of famine are coming. I will provide for you. He falls on Benjamin's neck and weeps. He kisses all his brothers and weeps. And then they talk.

Pharaoh hears the news and is pleased. The best of Egypt is offered to Jacob's family. Wagons are sent. And Joseph sends his brothers home with these words: do not quarrel on the way.

- Even in the moment of resolution, he knows them. Do not quarrel. They will want to assign blame for the last twenty years. He is releasing them from that before they begin.

Speak this over yourself today:

What was meant to destroy me, God used to position me.

I will not only see what was done to me.

I will ask what God built through it.

That second seeing is where freedom lives.

TOMORROW - Day 28 Genesis 46-47

An old man who never thought he would see his son again climbs into a wagon and heads to Egypt. God speaks to him on the way. And what He says will carry the whole family through four hundred years of what is coming. Come back tomorrow.

Day 27 of 365



RHYTHMS of FAITH



Discover the inspiring stories behind some of the world's most beloved hymns. Each episode explores the faith, experiences, and testimonies that gave birth to these timeless songs, revealing the powerful messages they continue to share today.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." — 2 Corinthians 5:7

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