



Lesson #12: Corrupted Conscience (Joseph's Brothers)

God has given to us four tools that help guide us along our pathway.

- 1) The _____ of _____ (Psalm 119:105)
- 2) The _____ (1 John 2:27)
- 3) Godly _____ (Proverbs 11:14)
- 4) A _____ (Romans 2:15)

. As we meet the brothers of Joseph in the passage we read this evening (Genesis 42) we discover along the way that there is no weight heavier to bear than the weight of a _____ conscience. Having sold their brother into slavery _____ earlier they now find themselves in Egypt seeking to purchase corn because there is a famine in the land. In verse 21 they are whispering to one another and expecting Joseph cannot understand when they say, "We are very _____ concerning our brother." The account of Joseph's brothers teaches us that it is impossible to _____ the value of a clean, clear conscience

THE _____ OF YOUR CONSCIENCE MUST BE AVOIDED

It is possible to so burn your conscience that the callouses built up around it no longer have a right perception of what is wrong.

A. Your conscience is seared when you _____ the right things to do

In Genesis 37:12-36 we read the account of how Joseph's brother plotted to kill him. This was a most terrible plan! With perverse pleasure the brothers ripped the coat off Joseph's back and threw him into a pit. Verse 25 then gives us the stunning anecdote about the character of these brothers. "They _____ down to _____" (37:25).

B. Your conscience is seared when you _____ your wrong doings

Now that they had sold Joseph into slavery the boys had to come up with a way to cover their tracks (Genesis 37:31-32). This showed the cruelty of the sons of Israel was not only directed toward the favored son (Joseph), but also towards the father who favored him. This was a _____ way to bring the news and an unconscionable _____.

THE _____ OF A CORRUPT CONSCIENCE IS AN ANNOYANCE

Turning back to Genesis 42 we see a picture of an unimaginably torment. There is nothing more unmanageable than a corrupted conscience.

A. A corrupt conscience _____ when unrelated difficulties arise

When life was easy their conscience seemed to be silent but when life has now brought special challenges their conscience is inflamed and it's as if it's on a PA in their heart. In times of difficulty the conscience _____.

B. A corrupt conscience causes you to feel _____ of blessings

Genesis 42:35 seems to be a blessing. It would seem that the brothers had found favor with Pharaoh's ambassador. Now, as they opened their bags, they not that they had been given the food free of charge! It's a good thing right? Well, even the best of days are _____ days to people who are laboring under a corrupted conscience.

C. A corrupt conscience turns the _____ into _____

The brothers who used to be so bold as to see Joseph into slavery were now sore afraid in Genesis 43:17.

THE _____ OF A CORRUPT CONSCIENCE IS ATTAINABLE

Joseph is about to provide a beautiful picture from the OT of how the Savior responds to us when we come to Him with corrupted consciences that need to be forgiven.

A. I can trust my Lord's _____ (Gen. 45:1-2)

We see in the picture of Joseph that my Savior is a friend of _____! There is no one with greater compassion. When the conscience is stirred and the Spirit of God leads you to repentance you can come to your Savior and know that he loves and cares for you.

B. I can trust my Lord's _____ (Gen. 45:10-11; 21-25)

Joseph is a type of _____ inviting those who have so offended him to come and live, if you will, in his back yard.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

God certainly does not desire us to have over-sensitive consciences with needless, neurotic guilt. At the same time, God does not want our conscience to be _____ and _____. Joseph's brothers lived with a crippled father (Jacob) for many years. Far worse than that, they lived with crippled _____. For 25 years they were crippled with the corruption of their conscience. They had cauterized their consciences and plugged their ears to its screaming. But in a magnificent moment they finally came and found forgiveness.