

Send Me, Lord

(Genesis 44:1-34)

July 31, 2016

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

- For Joseph, it is a journey of forgiveness and reconciliation;
- For the father and the brothers, it is a journey of life-transformation.

I. Overcome the most horrible sin/pain:

Unexpected encounter between Joseph and his brothers brought all of them back to the same horrible scene (Joseph was sold into slavery in Gen. 37:26-28) again.

Forgive: Joseph faced those brothers who sold him as a slave;

offession: his brothers face the brother they sold 23 years ago.

II. Test: revenge or forgive/ sin or repent

For Joseph—the most powerful governor in Egypt, it was a choice between revenge or forgiveness; his brothers bowing down before him reminded him of his dream and God’s faithfulness (Gen. 42:9);

For Joseph’s brothers on trial, their choice was to continue to cover their sin or to repent; they confessed as God uncovered their guilt.

III. Repentance & Transformation:

1. Jacob laid down his beloved Benjamin in his heart and put his faith in God. “If it must be, then do this” (Gen. 43:11) “if I am

bereaved, I am bereaved.” “May God Almighty grant you mercy” (Gen. 43:14)

2. The brothers laid down their lives for their Benjamin. They were in the similar situation as 23 years ago: the father’s beloved son, Benjamin, was far from protection; they need not hurt him or sin against him. They could walk away in freedom. However, they refused to accept the freedom and willingly, together, submitted themselves to Joseph as slaves. They confessed instead of justifying themselves; they sought for mercy rather than justice before the governor.

3. **Confession + forgiveness = reconciliation.** In their trials, they acknowledged God’s hand working on them and, through confession, they overcame the horrible sin they had committed against Joseph.

IV. Send me; purge me.

Israel and his 12 sons are God’s elect, as is His church on earth. God used two journeys to purge them. We, God’s church, have a great mission. Jesus Christ sends us into this world as salt and light.

We are sent out because we are ransomed.

1. Being sent out is a journey to know God.
2. Being sent out is a journey to be purged.
3. Being sent out is a journey of forgiveness;
4. Being sent out is a journey of reconciliation.