

When Guilt is Good > Genesis 42:1-38

42:1-17 *A dream come true.* Joseph was sold into slavery at 17 years of age. Now, around 20 years later, his prophetic dream is being fulfilled: his brothers have come before him to buy grain in a time of famine. But Joseph wants to test them, to see if they really have changed: he wants Benjamin, the son who remained home, to be brought before him.

42:18-28 *A guilt made clear.* The ten brothers have started to make the connection between their present troubles and how they had treated Joseph. Their guilt forces them to own up, at least to each other, for how wrongly they had acted.

42:29-38 *A son to be rescued.* Yet, there is another wrinkle in the story: Jacob, their father, believes that this will only lead to more tragedy. He believes Joseph to be dead and thinks that Simeon will soon follow; no wonder he isn't willing to send Benjamin to Egypt. Sin has unpredictable repercussions.

Context: Joseph's faithful work in Egypt has preserved the nation from a massive famine. So well did his plan work that people from other nations are coming to him for food.

Argument: Sometimes the Lord uses guilt to bring us to a point where we recognize our need for His grace.

Gospel: The good news is that our guilt can be dealt with – Jesus rescues the guilty from their sins. All we need do is genuinely trust Him. Do we? Will we?

Applications: Have you taken your guilt before the Lord? Don't ignore it; instead, let Him fully deal with it.

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
