



Sermon Notes from Last Week - 5 Aug

Restoring Shalom To A Dysfunctional, Fractured Family (*Gen 43:1-13*)

by Rev Guna Raman

When someone sins against you in a traumatic and life-altering way, it takes more than a 'sorry' to restore the relationship. Joseph needed to see if his brothers had really changed.

Gen 43:23,27,28 *Shalom* is the Hebrew word for peace meaning, to flourish. God wanted to restore shalom in Joseph's shattered family (Gen 37:4).

Gen 35:11 Jacob's toxic favouritism, Joseph's slanderous reports, and the brothers' murderous envy made God's promise seem impossible. In all his years in Egypt, Joseph made no effort to contact his family. He wanted to forget his traumatic past. But God initiated the restoration and reconciliation. The famine forced the family to Egypt where God's plan of shalom gets fulfilled.

All the families of the earth that belong to God will finally be made whole in heaven. All our sinful brokenness that is causing so much pain today will be fully healed. We will be one in Christ.

Restoring The Fractured Family:

1) Shalom For The Brothers

Gen 42:28 The brothers were becoming God-conscious! Talk of returning to Egypt resumes (vv1-2), and Judah pledges his own life to serve the interest of his family (v9). This son who had served his self-interests in the past (Gen 37,38), now exhibits a changed heart! God's work of sanctification in our hearts is often a slow process.

Change is a process.

Gen 43:23,33 Joseph was looking for evidence of repentance in his brothers.

v30 What Joseph saw in his brothers changed his own heart.

2) Shalom For Jacob, the father

Gen 42:36,38, 43:14, 37:35 God takes away the idols of our hearts in order to turn our hearts to himself and his word! The mark of an idol: A good thing has become the ultimate thing, and God is no longer at the center of the life.

3) Shalom For Us

To experience complete peace, God has to have the whole of your heart! He will never share you with an idol.

Contrary to what Jacob had expected and thought, God chose Leah's son Judah to be part of the messianic line. Jesus Christ is the promised seed who came through Judah and Tamar. God took one of the greatest sins in Judah's life (Gen 38), and turned it into the means of providing the greatest blessing that the world had ever seen.

Gen 45:3,15 Years of pain heals as shalom fills their hearts.

How Do You Restore A Broken Relationship Caused By Sin?

(Three realizations + Three action plans)

1. Realise the extent to which God has gone to reconcile you back to him.

[GET THE GOSPEL!]

2. Realise how much God the Father desires to restore shalom into your life & relationships. [GIVE UP YOUR IDOLS!]

3. Realise that for reconciliation to take place, true repentance is necessary.

[GROW IN GRACE AND LET OTHERS GROW IN GRACE.]