

Genesis: Guilt & Grace

Scripture: Genesis 42

Also: Romans 2:4

Questions

1. What has challenged you, changed you or confused you from this week's sermon or the Scriptures in it?
2. The sermon made the points that, in order to stir our conscience, sometimes God puts us:
 - in a place of extreme need
 - in a place of harsh treatment
 - in a place of solitude
 - which of those is hardest for you? Why?
 - Which of those has God used in your life?
3. The statement was made during the sermon that "True guilt is...grace because it brings the guilty to seek forgiveness and to repent."
 - What do you think of the concept that true guilt is a gift of grace before? Talk it through from different angles.
 - What is false guilt? Where does that come from?
 - Read Romans 2:4. How does this verse relate to this concept?
4. If you are in a place of significant difficulty, it is wise to ask yourself, "Is God trying to tell me something?"
 - **CAUTION:** This line of thinking can easily become unbiblical by leading us into thinking that ALL suffering or hardship is brought on by the person's wrongdoing. For instance, concluding that if someone has cancer (or any kind of hardship), they MUST have sinned. That is simply a restatement of the unbiblical principle of Karma.
 - How do you ask God that question then (practically speaking)? (Search Scripture, ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to any blind spots, ask trusted friends, etc.)
5. Is seeking forgiveness and repenting easy or hard?
 - Why do you think this is the case?
 - What can you do to become better at repenting?
 - How can your small group, or the friends/family around you, work together to become better at it?

Consider times you have been brought to repentance because of hard circumstances in your life - I challenge you to thank God for what He did through those hard times. Consider telling a friend or family member who may not yet trust God with this kind of experience.