

Genesis 42:1-38

3 Contrasts Of God's Molding of Families



Context

- This section, further record of life of Joseph
- After years of difficulty, Joseph now prime minister of Egypt; 2nd in command
- Egypt in grip of famine, just like God revealed through Pharoah's dreams
- After 20 years, Joseph encounters his brothers; in this encounter we see God's molding of family for His purpose

Even Though The Family Was Instituted In Perfection, It No longer Is

- (vv.1-7) Famine grows to entire region; Jacob and his sons need grain; hear there is food in Egypt
- God using famine to mold circumstances to accomplish His will
- Joseph comes face to face with his brothers who horribly mistreated him; hard to imaging how he felt
- In their family; hatred, rivalry, violence, division, attempted murder, betrayal, and abuse
- No such thing as a perfect family

- Rom. 3:23, “...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,...”
- Ps. 127:1, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it;...”



Even Though God Desires Families To Have Good Relations, This Often Takes Work

- (vv.8-24) See great character of Joseph; could have had brothers executed, but didn't
- Joseph wise/godly: led to follow God's plan of forgiveness and reconciliation if at all possible
- Allowed brothers to experience "pressure" to test them and see their character and maturity; had they changed over time?
- Joseph gives hints; (v.14) "tested", (v.18) "...for I fear God."
- How did brothers feel about Benjamin; he also a son of Rachael?

- I Cor. 13:7-8a, [God's love] "... bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things. Love never fails...."



Even Though God Puts Families Together Physically, He Also Equips Families To Be Together Emotionally

- (vv.25-28) Joseph continues to test; Simeon must stay behind while other brothers go get Benjamin
- As brothers sold him into slavery for 20 shekels of silver, they now find “extra” money in sacks; what would be their response to getting grain for which they had not paid?
- God working/leading: brothers aware the Lord is sovereignly working in their lives
- This time; complete honesty in report to Jacob

- Col. 3:14, “But above all these things, put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”
- Eph. 4:26-27, “ ‘Be angry, and do not sin’: ‘do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.’”

