

Bible Summary -Genesis 37-45

Dirt to Diamonds

The final section of Genesis focuses on the family of Jacob. It is a portrait of failure and sin. The twelve boys have been broken by their father's favoritism and failings. They become a very sinful group that are divided against each other. How will God take their twisted lives and create the seed for a nation that can be a light to the world? Judah is the example of this transformation. He is the one that sells Joseph into slavery, marries a Canaanite, sleeps with a prostitute who ends up being his daughter-in-law, lies for 22 years to his father and raises wicked sons. However, it is Judah that ends up the hero of this section. God transforms him by the difficult pressure of a famine. He responds by admitting his guilt and being willing to pay the price instead of selling out his brother. This transformation culminates in Judah becoming a portrait of his future offspring Jesus Christ by substituting himself for his younger brother.

Scriptures: Genesis 37-45; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; Jeremiah 12:5; Hebrews 12:5-14; 1 John 1:9; Matthew 20:28; Philippians 2:3-8

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Name some other examples in the Bible where God takes a "graphite"-like person and turns them into a "diamond".
 - a. Do you have an example from your own life?
2. Matt said, "forgiveness is free, but trust is earned."
 - a. As believers, what is our principal motivation to forgive?
 - b. How do we maintain a relationship with somebody we've forgiven but don't yet trust?
3. What is true repentance?
 - a. What obstacles stand in the way of eager/true repentance for a believer?
4. There are times when God uses difficulty or pressure as a catalyst to change us.
 - a. In today's teaching, what process did God use to change Judah into a person who was willing to substitute his life for his younger brother?
5. How does Judah's act of selflessness beautifully reflect the gospel?
 - a. How can we be more like Christ during this Christmas season?
6. Judah did something like Jesus would do. But when Jesus came He showed us the way by being our perfect example fully and completely. Take a few moments to reflect on our greater than Judah, Jesus, and His redemptive work on our behalf.