

#### IV. We are Desperate Men (29-38)

- A. They tell their dad almost everything.
  
- B. They really are being framed. Dad isn't sending anyone.
  
  
- C. Why do I call them *desperate men*?

#### LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an  
aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Why is it important to read the biographical sketches in Scripture, not only desiring to emulate the heroes of the story, but recognizing ways we've been like the villains?
- In this story, did Joseph's 10 brothers have a clear grasp of who they were? How does this account show them coming to an gradually increasing awareness of who they are?
- How does the test that Joseph employs, when he sends them home for Benjamin, demonstrate the wisdom of God?
- Herman Bavinck suggests, self-knowledge is both the key to conversion and "incredibly elusive and hard to find." Do you think this is true? Why or why not? Explain your own experience in this.
- What evidences are there in this text that the brothers were beginning to sense the judgment of God for their past sins? How do they show that they believe God can work just punishment even through unjust human judgments? What do you think of that?
- How does this story provide us with a clear picture of what the process of conversion looks like for all of us?

#### Genesis: Truth for Understanding Our World (Part 30)

##### *The Process of Conversion Begins*

Jerry Cisar — March 18, 2018

Text: Genesis 42

#### Introduction

#### I. We are Dead Men (1-5)

- A. In our last episode (Gen. 37).
  - B. Paralyzed in their guilt and shame.
    - i. They have nothing to say; no answer.
  
    - ii. Fear of death
  
    - iii. Searching for life
  - C. The first step in conversion is a command from God that comes from outside of us.
  
- D. They recognize that they are essentially dead and are finally moved to action in order to seek life.

## II. We are Honest Men (6-17)

- A. Joseph recognizes and remembers. (6-9)
  - i. Joseph recognizes his brothers.
  
  - ii. Joseph remembers the dreams.
  
- B. Who are You? (10-12)
  - i. The next step in conversion is to recognize who we are.
  
  - ii. “No! That answer won't do.” (13)
  
  - iii. Can they actually demonstrate real change? (14-17)
    - a) For a 3<sup>rd</sup> time he accuses them of being spies.
  
    - b) The test demonstrates Joseph's wisdom:

## III. We are Guilty Men (18-28)

- A. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, Joseph sets the plan into motion. (18-20)
  - i. In order for them to be *honest men* there must be a conversion. In order for their to be a conversion, they first have to recognize their guilt!

- B. The First Signs of Repentance – We are guilty men! (21-24)
  - i. They recognize that God is actively working through flawed human systems to bring about divine justice.
  
  - ii. An essential part of conversion is recognition of our guilt before God.
    - a) Calvin: In order for there to be genuine repentance, there has to be a “true dissatisfaction with sin and with one's self”.
  
    - b) Herman Bavinck: Self-knowledge is both the key to conversion *and* “incredibly elusive and hard to find.”
  
    - c) Augustine (Confessions): “*I desire to know God and the soul! O that I may know myself! O that I may know You!*”
  
  - iii. Why Simeon?
  
- C. Embracing Their Guilt (25-28)
  - i. Joseph has their silver put back in their sack.
    - a) They think they are being framed ... but by God. “*What is this that God has done to us?*”
  
    - b) Consider this little act of putting the silver in their sacks from Joseph's perspective.
      - Do they still love silver more than their brother?
  
  - ii. Self-awareness is dawning on them.