

The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday July 11th

West Worthing Evangelical Church.

Rugby Road

Praying for your non Christian family.

Genesis 43v1-15

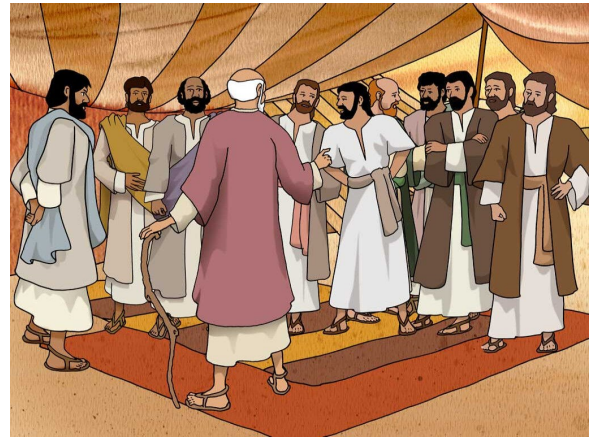
In God's perfect purpose and plan God was using Joseph to bring reconciliation between Joseph and his family. Joseph was now a Prince of Egypt after being sold into slavery by his brothers. He had risen from a trusted slave to a prisoner to Pharaoh's court by an amazing series of events. God had His hand upon him and revealed His purpose in dreams.

Underscoring this was God's plan of Reconciliation between Himself and man through our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. In Matthew 1v3 we read that the ancestry of Jesus goes through Judah, Joseph's stepbrother to Jacob and to Abraham where God promised that the nations of the world would be blessed. (Genesis 12v4).

Judah was not the oldest brother but he was the most influential. Genesis 37:26-28 It was Judah who saw an Ishmaelite caravan passing them at that moment. The said caravan was bound for Egypt, and Judah suggested that instead of killing Joseph, he should be sold as a slave to this group of people. He believed it was better to gain profit from selling Joseph, which the other brothers took as a wise suggestion.

Simeon was in Egypt as a hostage and Judah who had the same mother as Simeon, Leah, assured Jacob of Benjamin's safe return, However, another incident occurred, and Joseph ordered for Benjamin to stay in Egypt as his slave. Judah, who was responsible for Benjamin, decided to plead by taking the place of their youngest brother instead, until Joseph finally revealed his real identity upon discovering that his brothers have changed for the better.

God in his providence was bringing this family together to come to Egypt for a period of time so as a nation that could go to the land God had promised them.



There was a practice of separation amongst the Egyptians who believed that the Hebrew religion was an abomination (Genesis 43v32) this enabled the Hebrew people to live without so much influence of the Egyptian gods.

God used Joseph to bring reconciliation to Jacob's family. You would have thought that as soon as the brothers came into the presence of this Prince of Egypt that Joseph would have made himself known but he did not instead giving them a series of tests which would move their hearts so that reconciliation could take place. (Genesis 45v9-11)

All families have their differences and for a Christian to have none Christians in the family can be heart-breaking. Yet we must remember these words of Jesus.

Matthew 10v34

³⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; ³⁶ and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

Jesus did not force his followers to break family ties to follow Him as some present day cults. Jesus was pointing out that His disciples must have singular loyalty to Him. That's what happened to Joseph in his loyalty to God's revelation. When discipleship conflicts with family loyalty, following Jesus must take the priority over natural love of family. If one must choose, one must take Jesus.

But this does not mean that you love your family less. We are to pray for their conversion and do all we can to speak the gospel.

Although information is limited we can see in the scriptures something of the relationship with Jesus and His brothers. According to the apostle John, "not even His brothers believed in Him" ([John 7:5](#)). Not one of Jesus's brothers is mentioned as a disciple during his pre-crucifixion ministry. But after His resurrection and ascension, there they are in the upper room worshiping Him as God. ([Acts 1:14](#)).

Life in the Joseph and Mary household.

First, Jesus would have had unparalleled intellect and wisdom. He was astounding temple rabbis by age 12 ([Luke 2:42, 47](#)). We see the influence later on his brother James in his Epistle.

Second, Imagine living with a goody, goody.

Jesus's consistent and extraordinary moral character must have made Him odd and unnerving to be around.

Third, Jesus was deeply and uniquely loved by Mary and Joseph. As Jacob treated Joseph so how could they not have treated him differently?

More pain than we know must have been behind Jesus's words, "a prophet is not without honour except in his hometown and in his own household" ([Matthew 13:57](#)).

Power Through Weak Witness

So as we assess the role our weak, stumbling witness plays in our family members' unbelief, let's remember Jesus — not even a perfect witness guarantees that loved ones will see and embrace the gospel. We must humble ourselves and repent when we sin. But let's remember that the god of this world and indwelling sin is what blinds the minds of unbelievers. ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)).

The story of Jesus's brothers can actually give us hope for our loved ones. At the time His brothers claimed that Jesus was "out of his mind". ([Mark 3:21](#)) It must have appeared very unlikely that they would ever become his disciples. But eventually they did! And not only followers, but leaders and martyrs in the early church.

The God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," shone in their hearts "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of" their brother Jesus. ([2 Corinthians 4:6](#)).

So take heart! Don't give up praying for unbelieving family members. Don't take their resistance as the final word. They may yet believe, and be used significantly in the kingdom! Jesus does not promise that every parent, sibling, or child of a Christian will believe, but he does painfully promise that some families will divide over him ([Matthew 10:34–39](#)). We can trust him when it happens.



Susannah Thompson didn't marry Charles Spurgeon for his wealth, class, clothing, or appearance. In fact, the country preacher's "long, badly-trimmed hair" amused her.

Nor did Susannah marry Charles because he had polite manners, power in the pulpit, or eloquence of any kind. Actually, she thought "his countrified manner and speech excited more regret than reverence."

But near the end of her life, Susannah looked back over her marriage and concluded:

"It is a mercy that our lives are not left for us to plan, but that our Father chooses for us; else might we sometimes turn away from our best blessings, and put from us the choicest and loveliest gifts of His providence."

In their early twenties, Susannah and her husband carried the weight of the world on their shoulders. Charles had become a household name in England and America. Susannah supported his ministries, edited his books, and even helped him outline his sermons. As the pastor's wife of the world's largest Protestant church, all eyes were on Susannah. The Prince of Preachers wouldn't go far without his princess. Susannah was expected to be a spiritual superwoman—a straight-laced, "afternoonified" Victorian mother and wife.

Charles and Susannah Spurgeon were a power couple. But their power came from Jesus Christ, not each other.

ANOTHER HERO OF THE BIBLE

I am Rachel, my sister is Leah, we're daughters of Laban you know.

Jacob asked him for my hand because he loved me so. My father made a pact with him, He said that we could wed

If Jacob worked for seven years, no pay, a bride instead.

Jacob gladly worked for him and waited patiently When seven years were completed he expected to marry me.

But my father tricked him and gave him Leah instead. Jacob found that he'd been duped too late, for they were wed.

He worked another seven years so he could marry me. I was the sister that he loved so he did it willingly.

The years passed very quickly but my joy began to fall Leah gave Jacob many sons while I had none at all.

Leah was unhappy too for Jacob loved me best But I was jealous of her, with children she was blest.

At last God heard my prayer and gave two sons to me. Joseph first, then Benjamin, favourites they would be.



UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS FROM THE STORY:

TAYPETNIL	PAHYNUP
HIDRECLN	SATDINE
SOPJEH	
SUGTHREAD	
SOULAJE	DAKES
PETXEDCE	ELARCH
WEDROK	
NLIWYLGIL	
REFHAT	NETROHA
SEPDAS	ITADEW

I AM Almighty God walk before Me Genesis 17 v1

Walk worthy of the Lord.	Col. 1v10
The Lord knoweth thy walking.	Deut. 2v7
No good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly.	
Ps 84 v11	
He who walks with integrity walks securely.	Prov. 10 v9
None of his steps shall slide.	Ps 37 v31
Walk humbly.	Micah 6 v8
Walk in newness of life.	Romans 6 v4
Walk according to the spirit.	Romans 8 v1
Press on.	Phil 3 v12
Press towards the goal.	Phil 3 v14



Hymns ,Prayers and Bible Readings

Especially for those unable to get to Church.

Hymn

1 Our children, Lord, in faith and prayer,
We now devote to thee;
Let them Thy cov'nant mercies share
And Thy salvation see.

2 Such helpless babes Thou didst embrace
While dwelling here below;
To us and ours, O God of grace,
The same compassion show.

3 In early days their hearts secure
From worldly snares, we pray;
O let them to the end endure
In ev'ry righteous way.

Bible Reading Genesis 43v1-16

Prayer

Lord, I pray Your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over **my** grandkids. **Keep** evil far from them, and help them to trust You as **their** refuge and strength. I pray You will guard **their** minds from harmful instruction, and grant them discernment to recognize truth.

There are countless verses in the Bible through which you can pray for your family members by name. Here are a few to help guide you in your prayers:

Father God, I know that **“no one can come to [Jesus] unless the Father . . . draws them” (John 6:44)**. I ask that You draw _____ to Your Son, that he/she may know You personally and spend eternity with You.

Lord God, I ask that You move upon _____'s heart to accept the Truth of Christ. **“Give them a heart to know You, that You are the Lord, so that they will be Your people, and You will be their God,”** and may they **“return to You with all their heart” (Jeremiah 24:7)**.

Overwhelm _____ with the reality of Your love for him/her, that he/she may **“grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:18-19)**.

Lord, use me to **“open _____'s eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in You” (Acts 26:18)**.

Holy Spirit, show me specifically how to minister to each member of my family—whether I should **“be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; or show mercy, mixed with fear” (Jude 1:23)**. Reveal opportunities to share about You, and give me the strength to obey when You open the door.

Father God, Your Word says that **“godly sorrow brings repentance which leads to salvation and leaves no regret” (2 Corinthians 7:10)**. Only You can open our eyes to the reality that all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. Come upon _____ with a sense of godly sorrow for his/her sin, that he/she may repent, surrender to You, and be saved.

As we pray, God readies our hearts to do His will, while also inviting us to rest in the fact that only He can change hearts.

You may see the fruit of your prayers immediately, or you may never see the full impact of your intercession. Either way, **don't give up praying for your unsaved family members**.

Remember, we are engaged in a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6:12-20), and one of our greatest weapons is prayer. God is in the business of doing the impossible, and He can change even the hardest of hearts.

<https://uk.itw.org/read/prayer/how-to-pray-for-unsaved-family-members>