



THE ORCHARD

The God Who Is With Us

Psalm 51:1-2

In Our Guilt

Pastor Tom Yoon

October 25, 2026

Recap:

- This morning, we're continuing our series through the life of Joseph.
- And if you remember, we saw how God was with Joseph even when life didn't turn out the way he expected.
 - Wherever Joseph went.
 - Whatever hardship he faced.
 - The Bible reminds us that God was with Joseph.
- We also saw how Joseph honored God when he faced injustice.
 - He didn't grow bitter.
 - Instead, he faithfully served the Lord.
- And through Joseph, we learned that we have hope even in the face of injustice and hardship, because the Lord is with us.
 - And if God is with you.
 - If God is for you.
 - There's nothing that can be against you.
 - And so, you can continue to trust and serve the Lord.
- And when we trust and suffer unjustly, the Bible tells us how this is pleasing to the Lord.



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- Peter writes:
- **“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly...this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.” 1 Peter 2:19-20**

Introduction:

- As we continue in our series.
 - We’re going to be shifting our focus from Joseph’s trials to Joseph’s brothers, and how God leads them to repentance.
- If you remember, Joseph’s brothers were very cruel and wicked people.
- Simeon and Levi deceived the men of Shechem.
 - The leader of the city slept with their sister.
 - And so, do you remember what Simeon and Levi did?
 - They took revenge by killing all the men of the city.
- And then Rueben, the oldest brother, brought disgrace to the family by sleeping with Bilhah, his father’s concubine.
 - He was willing to lose his rights as the firstborn son for this sin.



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- And then, Judah convinced his brothers to sell Joseph to slave traders.
 - Judah was so cruel, he was willing to sell his little brother to make a profit.
- And finally, after selling Joseph, all the brothers decided to lie.
 - They made Jacob believe that Joseph was eaten by an animal.
 - The Bible says Jacob couldn't be consoled.
 - Joseph's brothers were willing to let their father mourn rather than speak the truth.
- And as you look at these brothers, you can't help but wonder if they could ever change.
 - They were so violent and rebellious.
 - How could they ever repent?
- As bad as these brothers were, for the next few weeks, we're going to see how God leads them to faith and repentance.
 - How God's kindness can save the hardest heart.
- It may be, you know someone in your life right now who's rebelling against God and going down the wrong path.
 - Perhaps a child.
 - Perhaps a friend.



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- Perhaps your spouse.
- Someone you've been praying for, for a long time.
- And you may feel like giving up hope.
 - You may feel they'll never change.
- If that is you, you'll see how God doesn't give up on his people.
 - But leads them to repentance and faith.
- So, how does the Lord lead stubborn people to repentance?

Point 1:

- First, we see from our passage how God leads us to repentance by disrupting our comfort.
- Joseph's brothers never confessed their sin to their father, nor to God.
 - They kept it hidden.
- And to awaken their conscience.
 - God sent a famine to make them feel uncomfortable.
 - These brothers became comfortable with their sin.
 - They thought it was forgotten.
 - So, God sent a famine to break their peace.



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- In fact, isn't this exactly what happened with the prodigal son?
 - He sinned against his father and left the family.
 - And do you remember what started the process of repentance for this prodigal son?
 - It was a famine in the land.
 - The son lost everything he had.
 - And this disruption began his journey toward repentance.
- That's why the Psalmist says in Psalm 119 verse 67:
 - **"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word."** Psalm 119:67
 - Before affliction, the writer disobeyed God's word.
 - But it was affliction that led him to obedience.
- Now, this doesn't mean every time you experience a trial, it's because of some sin.
- If you remember, Job experienced great pain.
 - And it wasn't at all because of sin.
 - In fact, in Job's case, it was because he was righteous that he had to face a great trial.
- Sometimes, we may face a trial because of our righteousness.
 - Because God wants to refine our faith.



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- But when someone is living in sin and they don't repent, its possible God may break their peace, and send a trial, so the person can't remain comfortable with their sin.
 - Their secret may be exposed.
 - Their relationship may fall apart.
 - They may experience failure in ministry.
 - They may lose their reputation.
- God may disrupt our comfort and bring affliction, so that we have to change.
 - To force us to face our sin.

Point 2:

- Second, we see how God leads us to repentance through his patient work.
- Once Joseph's brothers got to Egypt, the Bible says that Joseph recognized them, but they didn't recognize him.
 - It was over 20 years since they saw their little 17-year-old brother.
 - And because Joesph was speaking a different language and wearing Egyptian clothing, they couldn't recognize that Joseph was the prime minister of Egypt.



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- And instead of revealing himself right away.
 - Joseph waited.
- Some people think that Joseph should've immediately revealed himself when he recognized his brothers.
 - But Bible scholars state how Joseph was being wise by waiting to reveal himself.
- Listen to what Pastor Warren Wiersbe writes:
 - "True reconciliation...requires sincere repentance and humble confession of sin, and often it takes time for a person to get to that place. I believe that Joseph dealt with his brothers in a patient, loving, and wise way, and that's why his approach succeeded. God had to bring Joseph's brothers to the place where they admitted the evil things they had done to their brother and their father. Shallow repentance leads to an experience that isn't reconciliation at all. It's only a fragile truce." (Wiersbe, 121, Genesis)
- Joseph waited for the Lord to change their heart.
- We may want others to repent right away.



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- We may quickly point out their sin.
 - And expect them to change.
- Shouldn't it be that simple?
 - We point out their mistakes.
 - They acknowledge their sin.
 - And then they change?
- But we need to remember that sometimes repentance takes time.
 - It takes God's surgical work.
- Judah is a perfect example of this.
 - He was the one who convinced all the brothers to sell Joseph off.
 - But in our story today, he's the one who's willing to give his life for Benjamin.
 - And we know the reason for Judah's change.
 - It was because he realized the great sin he committed against Tamar.
 - And when she revealed herself, his heart began to change.
 - God was patiently working in his life.
- I know we want others to quickly change.



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- For others to see their sin and to immediately repent.
 - But repentance isn't something we can force.
 - We can speak the truth.
 - We can correct.
 - But only God can change the heart.
 - And so, there will be times when we need to patiently wait.
- And it's by waiting on God's timing and his patient surgical work that others will be led to repentance and faith.
 - How is God able to lead rebellious sinners to faith and repentance?
 - By disrupting their comfort.
 - Through his patient work.

Point 3:

- And third, we see from our passage how God leads us to repentance by helping us face our past.
- As far as we know, the Bible never says the brothers discussed their sin with one another.
 - They never spoke about what they did.
 - Instead of confessing.



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- They just buried their sin for more than 20 years.
- They did what some people do with unconfessed sin.
 - They just moved on.
 - There are people who just move on to another relationship.
 - Or go to another church.
 - Or avoid confrontation.
 - And their sin keeps them from growing, because they never confessed.
- But watch how God brings up their sin.
- When Jacob learned there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons:
 - **“Why do you look at one another?”** Genesis 42:1
 - Pastor James Boice states how the brothers kept looking at each other because they were reminded of the painful memory of sending their brother to Egypt. (Boice, Genesis, 986-987)
- Egypt was the last place Joseph’s brothers wanted to think about.
 - It may be, they never mentioned Egypt for all this time.



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- And when Jacob tells his sons to go to Egypt.
 - Can you imagine them looking at each other?
 - “Go to Egypt?”
 - “Yea, we can go to Egypt.”
 - “Why are you guys looking at each other like that?”
 - “It’s nothing.”
 - “We’ll go to Egypt,”
- Through God’s providence.
 - The place where they sent their brother became the place they had to go to get food.
- And when once they got to Egypt, they were falsely accused and sent to prison.
 - And they plead with the prime minister and tell him how they’re not spies.
- They were forced to remember how Joseph pleaded with them when he was in the pit.
 - They were reminded of his tears.
 - They were reminded of his voice.
 - Begging for his brothers to let him go.
- God was digging up their hidden memories.
 - And they began to feel the weight of what they did.



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- And finally, after years of silence, they confess their sins to one another.
 - In chapter 42 verse 21.
 - They say to one another:
 - **“In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.”** Genesis 42:21
- And then Reuben speaks up and says:
 - **“Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.”** Genesis 42:22
- After 20 years of silence.
 - They finally confess their sin.
 - They acknowledge how they are guilty of wrong.
- Not only do they acknowledge their wrong, but they also acknowledge how they deserve to be punished.
 - They confess how there needs to be a reckoning for his blood.
- It may be painful to think about sins from our past.



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- But it's by facing our past, and confessing our sin, that we can find forgiveness and healing for the future.

Point 4:

- Fourth, God leads us to repentance through painful confrontation.
- In verse 7 it says:
 - **“Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them.”** Genesis 42:7
 - Joseph's speech was so harsh, when they got home.
 - They say to their father:
 - **“The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land.”** Genesis 42:30
- Pastor James Boice states how God knew exactly what these men needed.
 - And he explains how God was using Joseph and this rough confrontation, to lead them to repentance.
 - He writes:
 - “These were not men a person could treat gently. It took a vigorous shaking by the prime minister of Egypt to unsettle them.” (Boice, Genesis, 994)



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- And isn't this how Jesus sometimes speaks to people as well.
 - He doesn't do it all the time.
 - But there are some examples where Jesus is rough.
 - Where he tests people, to see what is truly in their heart.
- Think about the story of the rich young ruler from Mark chapter 10.
 - A young ruler came to Jesus asking what he had to do to inherit eternal life.
 - He kept all of the commandments, but he still felt he was lacking.
 - And Jesus speaks about the one thing that was ruling this man's heart.
 - He told him how he had to sell everything and give to the poor.
 - Because this man loved money more than anything else.
 - This was a hard word for this wealthy man.
 - Jesus exposed this man's heart.
 - It was because Jesus loved this man.
 - But the man walked away, because he had many possessions.
- This may happen to us when we come to church, and we feel challenged by the sermon.



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- Or when God's word exposes our pride.
- Or brings to mind past sins, we wanted to forget.
- And we may want to run from God's word.
- When we opened the Northshore Campus.
 - One time, I noticed a lady leaving during the middle of the sermon.
 - I happened to be in the lobby and asked if she was doing okay.
 - And she said that she wasn't going to attend our church because the sermon made her feel uncomfortable.
 - The first point of the sermon was:
 - The sin we need to see.
 - And the second point was:
 - The grace we need to receive.
 - And I said:
 - "You should stay for the second point. That's where Pastor Josh is going to talk about grace."
 - And she said:
 - "Oh no, I just want the grace, not the sin stuff."
- If all you want is comfort and no correction.
 - If you never want to face your sin.
 - It'll be very hard for you to change.



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- When Joseph was speaking roughly to his brothers.
 - He wasn't trying to punish them.
 - Or get revenge.
 - He wanted to reconcile with them.
 - It was because he loved them.
- And let's remember, that when God speaks roughly to us and confront us.
 - It's not because he's against us.
 - It's actually his act of kindness.
 - It's because he loves us.
 - It's because he wants to bring us back.
- How does God lead rebellious sinners to repentance and faith?
 - Sometimes it's through painful confrontation.

Point 5:

- And lastly, we see how God leads us to repentance, though his loving kindness.
- When they came home.
 - One of the brothers opened his sack.
 - And listen to what he says:



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- **“My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!”** Genesis 42:28
- And then the Bible says:
- **At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”** Genesis 42:28
- Joseph spoke roughly to them.
 - And put them in prison.
 - But unknown to his brothers.
 - He also wept when they weren’t watching.
 - And he told his servants to replace each person’s money and to give them provisions for the journey home.
 - He showed them his love by filling their sacks.
- The brothers were afraid.
 - They knew that they were guilty of sin.
 - They felt that God was going to judge them.
 - That’s why their hearts sank when they saw the money in their sacks.
 - This was Joseph’s act of kindness.
 - But stood there trembling.
- While these brothers were afraid of what God might do.
 - God was actually working for their good.



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- Behind all rough words.
 - The imprisonment.
 - The traveling back and forth.
 - Simeon being captured.
 - A loving God was leading them to repentance.
-
- Sadly, they weren't able to see how God's grace was leading them.
 - Instead of seeing God's kindness, they feared his judgement.
-
- And isn't that how many people are today?
 - When God offers grace.
 - When God shows kindness.
 - Because of their past, they still feel that God is out to get them.
-
- As you think about your past, you may feel that you owe God.
 - That you couldn't be forgiven of your sins.
 - But don't you see how God is gracious to sinners?
 - Through the discomfort, through his surgical work, through his leading us to face the past, through the painful confrontations, it's actually God's kindness, leading us to repentance.



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- How does God lead rebellious sinners to repentance and faith?
 - By disturbing our comfort.
 - Through his patient work.
 - By helping us face the past.
 - Through painful confrontation.
 - And through his loving kindness.

Conclusion:

- And do you know why your sins can be forgiven when you confess?

Loving Kindness 1:

- It's because he's shown his kindness to you by sending his one and only Son.
- When Joseph's brothers told their father how the prime minister demanded they bring their brother Benjamin.
 - Jacob was reluctant.
 - Benjamin was his favored son.
 - At first, he refused to let him go.
 - Even though Simeon was still in Egypt.



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- It was only after Judah promised to protect him that Jacob reluctantly sent him to Egypt.
- But when we were condemned by our sin.
 - When we needed to be saved.
 - God didn't spare his own Son.
 - He gave his Son.
 - **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16**

Loving Kindness 2:

- Not only that, but we can be forgiven when we confess, because God has shown his kindness by paying the price you owe.
- When Joseph's brothers explained how they found their money in their sacks.
 - They told the steward how it was all a mistake.
 - And they tried to give the money back.
 - But the steward tells them how he was paid.
 - Most likely, Joseph paid for the grain.
 - Not only did he fill their sacks with their money.
 - He even paid the price for the grain they took.



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- And that's what Jesus Christ has done for us.
 - He paid the debt of our sin, that we could never pay.
 - No matter how good you try to live.
 - You could never pay the price for your sin.
 - You could never atone for your sin.
 - That's why Jesus Christ died on the cross.
 - And he took your place.
 - And he bore the penalty that we deserved.

Loving Kindness 3:

- Not only that, but we can be forgiven, because God has shown his kindness through his sovereign grace.
- When Joseph saw his brothers bowing down to him, the Bible says that he remembered the dreams that he had.
 - God was showing how he was fulfilling everything he had planned.
- And with everything that happens in this story, you can't help but see how God was leading these brothers.
 - They didn't recognize Joseph.
 - But Joseph recognized them.
 - And God used Joseph to help his brothers.



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- In the same way, we may not always recognize what God is doing in our lives.
 - But let's remember, that God's sovereign grace is also leading us.
 - He's drawing us closer to him.
 - He's calling us to repent and rest in Christ.

- As some of you know, I was preaching at a retreat for North Korean women a couple of weeks ago.
 - It was a wonderful retreat.
 - And at the end of the retreat, there was a time when the ladies were given a chance to share their testimony.
 - And one lady shared how scared she felt when she escaped from North Korea into China.
 - She said she was so afraid because she didn't know the language.
 - She didn't know where she was going.
 - But even though she never believed in God.
 - She said how she felt God was with her and leading her.
 - And when she finally heard the gospel in South Korea, she came to recognize the God who had been watching over her all along.
 - And she was able to receive his grace and find forgiveness and salvation in him.



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- And it's the same with you.
 - No matter your past.
 - No matter how great your sins.
 - God has shown you his kindness.
 - God sent his Son.
 - And he paid the price.
 - And he's calling you to repent and believe.
 - So, you can receive his forgiveness and grace.