



Viewfield Baptist Church

To enable people to become fully devoted
followers of Jesus Christ

Joseph Study Leaflet

Sunday 16th June

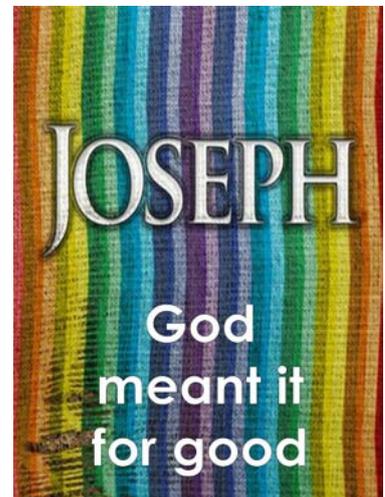
Sermon 14
“Come Dine with Me”
Genesis 43

This study guide will be used in our Small Groups, but can also be used by individuals.

You can download or listen to a recording of the sermon at this link:

<http://www.viewfield.org.uk/media/podcasts>

Leaflets about our small groups are available on the teabar. If you would like to join a small group, please speak to our Pastor, Rae, or to Pete Hutchison.



Viewfield Baptist Church

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Sermon 14. Genesis 43. "Come Dine with Me."

Here in the story of Joseph we have come to the point that his brothers have arrived back in Egypt with their youngest brother Benjamin. Jacob finally gave his approval for his youngest son to go with them. In one sense, he did not really have any other option. If he had not sent Benjamin to Egypt, Simeon may have been killed and the family surely would have starved to death because of the Famine. In **verse 16** we are told that when the brothers arrive in Egypt, Joseph tells his steward that they must "*Come Dine with me.*" They are invited to a fabulous dinner.

It is amazing the number of comparisons that we find in the story of Joseph with the story of Jesus, the Messiah. As we consider the fact that these Hebrew brothers are invited to a meal, we consider another man and another meal. We think back to the Lord Jesus calling us to share in a meal. A meal where we eat bread, remember his body broken for us, drink wine, and remember his blood shed for us. This morning I want to consider and compare this meal in **Genesis Chapter 43** with the Lord's Supper and see what biblical principles we can learn. As we do this, we will seek to apply the significance of this remembrance meal in our lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1/ Invitation v16-23

We mentioned earlier that we are told in **verse 16** that after making sure that Benjamin is with them, Joseph asks his steward to invite his brothers to dinner. The brothers assume that they are about to be arrested and enslaved for failing to pay for their first load of grain. They are very afraid. **READ v17-18.**

They feel the need to prove their innocence quickly. **V19-22.** The steward puts their minds at rest, telling them that they are simply Joseph's guests and brings Simeon out to them **READ v23.** He is gracious and friendly. Not only are they not condemned men, but there is no charge to answer. They probably could not believe their own ears. Here the steward assured them that their guilt had been covered, their debt had been paid and they had nothing to answer for. They were now guests at the great man himself and could sit down at the table.

In the same way, all who are followers of Jesus Christ are invited to share in the Lord's Supper. We do not need to come with any fear, guilt or condemnation. In fact, the Scriptures tell us that: "*there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" **Romans 8v1**

We come to remember his death on the cross and consequently that our guilt has been covered and our debt has been paid. We come as guests of the Lord Jesus Christ to share in fellowship with Him. God the Father has shown us mercy in Christ and has not treated us as our sins deserved.

2/ Preparation v24-28

We are told in **verses 24-25** that they spent some time preparing themselves for lunch and getting their gifts ready for Joseph. **READ v24-25.** They also came with a respectful and humble attitude towards Joseph, the Prime Minister of Egypt. **V26**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, it is important that we prepare ourselves before we share in this meal. What our Lord is wanting is that we prepare our hearts and bring him the gifts of our love, devotion and obedience. Indeed Paul makes it clear that as we share the Lord's Supper it should be a time for self-examination. **1 Corinthians 11v28:** "*Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A person ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*"

However, we should also come with a humble attitude before our awesome Lord. Just as the brothers bowed down before Joseph, we should come before the Lord in humility. The bread and the wine will remind us that though our sins are great, a great price has been paid for our redemption.

3/ Compassion v29-31

We are told that Joseph is deeply moved with love and compassion as he meets Benjamin. **V30.**

Joseph's special relationship with Benjamin is clear and he says to him *"God be gracious to you, my son."* **V29.** However, I am sure that he is also moved because the brothers have returned Benjamin and that he is seeing the possibility of reconciliation despite the wrongs he had faced.

As we share in the Lord's Supper, we must remember that Christ looks upon us with compassion. Despite our faults, despite our mistakes, he loves us and he cares for us. We are told in the Scriptures that: *"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all he has compassion on all that he has made."* **Psalm 145v8**

We see a beautiful picture of the compassion that Christ has as we consider the words he spoke as he looked out at Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. When I went to the Holy Land, I visited the spot believed to be where Jesus said these words, marked by the Tear Drop Chapel. **READ Mth 23v37.** As we share this meal, we are also aware that in Christ God has been gracious to us. We are saved by grace. His grace is sufficient for us.

4/ Discrimination v32-34

After composing himself, Joseph calls for dinner to be served. **READ v31-32.** However, all who have gathered for the meal are treated differently. There is a difference depending upon rank, nationality etc. Joseph eats separately because of his rank. The Egyptians eat separately because they had an ethnic, religious and national sense of their own importance. In fact because the Hebrews were Shepherds, that was another reason for keeping them at a distance, because Shepherds were an abomination to Egyptians.

As we reflect upon the Lord's Supper, we are reminded that all who love the Lord Jesus are invited to share that meal together. Whatever, rank, status, gender, ethnicity or nationality. No one is more important than any other is. We are all one in Christ Jesus. **READ Galatians 3v26-28.**

5/ Provision v34b

We are told at the end of **v34** that the brothers all feasted and drank freely with him. This was a fabulous banquet and they the provision was bountiful.

It was not long before that these men were starving in the midst of a famine and are now feasting at a banquet. As we come to share communion we must remember that as we come to remember the Lord and to focus on him we are spiritually nourished. Because of our faith in Christ, we are a people who are blessed abundantly. **READ Ephesians 1v3-8.**

Conclusion

All who follow Jesus have an invitation to this meal because of his great compassion. There is no discrimination all he asks is we take time in preparation and he promises his provision.

The principal object of the Lord's Supper, is to remind us of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross for us. In their accounts of the Lord's Supper, Paul and Luke record Jesus command to continue to celebrate this supper. **Jesus says: "This do in remembrance of me." Luke 22v19, 1 Cor 11v24.**

It is also a time to look forward with anticipation. Mark's account of the supper ends on a note of eager anticipation of the coming kingdom. Jesus says in **Mark 14v25**, *"I tell you the truth; I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."*

His solemn affirmation underscores the certainty of the kingdom hope of Jesus second coming. As we share this supper, we look forward with anticipation to the Lord's Second coming. Every communion service brings you one step closer to the great marriage supper of the lamb in heaven. **READ Revelation 19v 5- 10a.**

What an awesome occasion. Hallelujah, What a Saviour.

Bible study questions

Icebreaker: "What is the best meal you have ever eaten and why?"

1. What is so significant about the Lord's Supper?
2. The brothers were invited to a meal. What does it mean to you that Jesus himself invites you to participate in the Lord's Supper?
3. In what ways did the brothers prepare themselves for this meal? How should we prepare ourselves for before eating of the bread and drinking of the wine?
4. We see in the story that Joseph is filled with compassion. Discuss **Psalms 145v8**. What difference does this make to the way you live your Christian life?
5. The Bible makes it clear that we are all one in Christ. In what way should we model this in the life of the church? In what ways has discrimination been a problem in the history of the church?
6. Another word for the Lord's Supper is the word Eucharist. This means "To Give thanks." Why is thanksgiving so important as we share communion? Why as Christians should we have thankful hearts? How should this manifest itself in our lives?
7. Communion reminds us of the significance of Christ's death on the cross for our sins. Spend some time surveying the wondrous cross together and sharing some of its beauty. What does Christ's death mean for you today?
8. Sharing communion is also a time to look forward with anticipation. Every communion service brings you one step closer to the great marriage supper of the lamb in heaven. Discuss **Revelation 19v 5-10a**.

Application: "As you take communion this week do so with a renewed wonder of the great love, mercy and grace of God in Christ."