

AD-20090101: [16]: I Am Your Brother

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Theme: I Am Your Brother

Text: Gen. 21:2-30

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Festo -- "I Am Your Brother"

I want to read to you just a few verses from this wonderful story in Genesis, ~~xxx~~ chapter 44. I'm not going to read through the whole chapter, just a few verses here and there to show you a mistake which we all make and how grace meets it.

In Genesis, chapter 43, perhaps to get the background and the context, shall we look at 42~~xx~~ and verse 8. It is a story which you are all acquainted with of the ten men the true beloved Jacob, the sons of Jacob. Ten of them. The youngest was not with them. This is a story which you are all acquainted with. But, I want to ask of the Holy Spirit to show us something through this one and also show us, Lord Jesus, in it ten men, if whenever I read this, my heart ~~my heart~~ sometimes feels sox burdened. Not only for those sons of Jacob, because they are no longer, but for myself. Because, really, ^{carried} these ten men ~~learned~~,

Jacob
4 sons

if I may put it that way, they bore a terrific burden for years.

In fact, they bore it, they carried it along with them and labored under it ~~xx~~ for a good 18 years. Ten men. These men whom God had chosen, after they had committed that terrible and unforgettable sin of selling their brother, ^{having} almost they nearly committed murder. But somehow they didn't, they sold their brother. From that day they labored under the sense of that condemnation for ~~sixty~~ 18 years, and they schemed to cover up that thing. And they produced all sorts of things and they told lies, ^{but} and after a time it came back. I think it was a terrible experience for those ten brothers. Until, now, somehow, God does it, how very graciously, he brought them to Joseph. Somehow he brought them to Joseph. And it was Joseph they dreaded _____.

Now, if ~~there~~ there was anyone they dreaded, it was ~~for~~ Joseph. They all wanted to believe that he died. They wanted to make every-
body believe he died. ^{But} And, you know, ^{that} this Joseph ^{had not} never died. Everywhere they went it seemed that Joseph was haunting wherever they went. They lied to their father, and it seemed as if Joseph was following after them. They went and looked after sheep, and Joseph seemed to be, ^{there} all the time, as it were, after their own _____. As it were, just haunting after them,

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hunting like a dog. The Conscience went after them, ^{for} and years and years ^{and} they never forgot, until this remarkable day we read of here ^{when} they ^{were} forced (to come to Joseph). They forced ~~xx~~ by circumstances, to stand ^{and} the fall before him, greater than Joseph's. Youx know they came, and Joseph knew his brethren, ~~xxxxxx~~ but they knew not them.

I want you to picture these ten men standing in front of Joseph Joseph and he could see he knew them. He knew their names and he looked in their eyes and he saw they were guilty, but they ^{didn't know} never knew ~~xx~~ him, ^{so} He spoke to them through an interpreter. Joseph ^{that} that they laboring; he knew for eighteen years they ^{had been} were struggling and struggling and laboring to make themselves forget this thing, ^{but} And they never succeeded. He knew it, because it was Joseph whom they sold. He knew it, and ^{so} when he looked in their eyes, they were guilty. Other Egyptians didn't know that they were guilty, and they ^{themselves} pretended they were not guilty. But, when Joseph looked at them, he knew they were guilty men. ⁹ They were ill at ease. They were far from being comfortable and because he loved them ^{Joseph} he knew there was no other way out. ^{the} Joseph knew as long as that thing was not dealt with as long as they were not prepared to drag that terrible ^{sin} out and bury it down in the grave and forget it, He knew that they were not going to get away from being haunted by their own consciences, and ^{so} Joseph in his graciousness was trying to bring these men to where they could get rid of this terrible burden. But, you know, they ~~xxxxxx~~ evaded it every-~~time~~ time. ⁹ And, Joseph spoke to them like this. He said, "You are spies," a rather harsh word, "you are spies." And the minute he said that, you know what he remembered, the moment he said you are spies, quickly their consciences said it is because of what you did. Somehow it seemed as if it was bell ringing. And listen to their confessions. Listen to what they are going to confess. Very often that is what we do when we are guilty. "Youx are spies," he says, and then in verse 11, "We are all one man's son. We are ~~we are~~ true men; ^{they} servants, ^{and} and no spies!" Mark that word - "We are true men." And I want to look in their eyes when they say that

word, "we are true men." And Joseph was looking at them as they said, "we are true men," Were they? Listen to what they are going to say a little bit more. "we are true men, we are ~~not spies~~ spies." alright. Verse 13, and they said, "Thy servants are 12 brethren." That's true, that's true. Good counting, too. There were 12 and they were brethren, too - no lie about that. "We have the signs of one man, in ~~the land~~ the land of Canaan," and that was true, very true. Then God, a little bit farther ^{and hold the youngest} "is ~~this~~ this day with our father," That is very true. But look at the last words: "And one is not ^{waiting} waiting." Are they true? Is it true? They confessed all the rest, and of course, they confessed what was absolutely unnecessary. What made them uncomfortable, was a little bit, ^{wine} those last words, "and one ^{is} ~~was~~ not." That is what was haunting them. The rest was absolutely unnecessary. They might as well have forgotten it. They were not suffering from it, either. It was a waste of time. It was an unnecessary confession. They were not suffering from the fact that their father was living in Canaan, that they were poor people, that they had the ^{brother} brother at home. ~~Nothing~~ Nothing to do with that. Their consciences were not burdened with any of that stuff. But the last words ^{was the crux}.. 'and one is not' And, sometimes, dear Christian people, we can long for revival, we can long for renewal, we can pray our heads off, we can do anything, just like these brothers. We can even make long confessions until we reach ~~to~~ the last point where God is waiting for you. It was as if Joseph ^{had been} was holding back, waiting for the whole truth. If they had said, "and one we sold," what a change. Immediately the whole picture ~~was~~ would have changed. Joseph was just almost, waiting for that last minute. It would have made all the difference in the world. If they had just made, ^{that confession} but they never made it. They just got there, and then they evaded. ^{didn't make} Don't you sometimes? I can't tell you how many times you evade what is the key to the blessing. Something that God knows, that if you really come to that point and you mean business with Him, He is going ~~xxx~~ to see to it that you are going to be blessed. Grace is just waiting to come to you there, on that point. But see how clever the devil is and when he's not

This vague business, this generalization, ^{in confession} it makes you comfortable in yourself. When they say "one is not", they ^{was a} are not guilty, he might have died. No one knows anything. Perhaps he was ^{sa. 7. 6} greeted by an animal or some terrible catastrophe happened to him. No one knows what. They are vague. Don't you know there is a sort of confession of ~~xxx~~ sin, a sort of admitting you're wrong which leaves you safe. You admit it in such a way that no one knows you are guilty. They ^{don't know} are not responsible for the curse which has come into the community; ~~They are not responsible for the broken relationship~~ ^{with} in this chap, not at all. And the blessing never came. And Joseph looked at them and he went on and he said, verse 14, "You are spies." But, look, verse 21. "Afterwards," they said one to another, we are ^{very} guilty concerning our ~~b~~ father, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this ^{distress} come upon us." When they asked ^{spoke to} themselves, confess it fully. ^{But} When they come and stand before Joseph, they evaded it. When they ^{had} faced Jacob, they evaded it. They will confess it anywhere, except where it is concerned. ^{mattered,}

These are men who gossip about the broken ~~xxx~~ relationships with their wives. We pretend that we men don't gossip. And of course, ^{it is} there is also, they ^{will} talk to anyone except to the one concerned. You will go all the way, you will find somebody, ^{unrelated to the heart and} you will talk about the man, you will laugh and of course you are laughing at Jesus. "Oh, but he's awful, isn't he? Oh you can't get along with him. He's ~~xx~~ the most difficult person!" But you don't tell him that. When you ^{he} come, you put on this broad, broad smile ^{and} you look wonderful. But, ~~inside~~, inside there is something that says you are not true. You are a spy here. Because a spy is one who comes and looks ^{appears to be} what is not. ~~Wx~~ He may look like a friend, when all the time he is carrying a revolver by his side. And that's Christians are ^{how} spies. These ~~xxxx~~ sons of Jacob, and Joseph repeated, "You are spies." Why don't they speak this ^{truth} to Joseph? Why can't they admit it? And they said, they used those words when they say, "therefore is this distress come upon us." ^{It} Do you know why the distress has come

Broken relationship

upon homes? Upon work? Upon offices? Upon churches? It is this business of evading the truth, when the Holy Spirit comes and brings it to you, And you evade it carefully. We are all very clever. We fight it easy. But, ^{actually} you know, it is a gruelling experience, it makes you tired. It makes many people hard and the strain is ~~xxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ cause of it, because I'm not prepared to face that last bit. And it is that which God is interested in, because God knows ^{that} what has taken away the blessing, what has made me dry, is that last bit of truth. And ~~xxxxx~~ ^{the} ~~brothers~~, because they were not prepared to face the truth, they misunderstood Joseph. Listen to their explanation, they said ~~xxxx~~ to their father, "The man, who is the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us." They thought ^{he was} you are very rough~~xx~~. Was he? They misunderstood him entirely. He was the most tender-hearted man, because if you read verse 23, you'll see, "They knew not that Joseph understood them for he spoke to them by an interpreter, and he turned himself about from them and he wept." Is that being rough? Do rough people weep? He loved them. He was a most tender-hearted man, a most gracious man. And tonight, I want you to direct your attention to the Lord Jesus. There are ~~many~~ ^{Christian} many people in this congregation who may be ~~xxxxx~~ now mistaking Jesus, misunderstanding Jesus, ^{as} him for being rough with them. They think he is continually hammering on their sins, to make them miserable. Never ^{with} him. You think he's rough? Not at all. You are being rough to yourself. As long as you evade the truth as God brings it near, you are just treating yourself roughly. You are giving your precious soul a rough time unnecessarily. Only if you knew that ^{the} grace is not rough, that grace ~~are~~ are waiting for you! You only ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{are} have to say that word, that thing ~~xx~~ which you afraid, and grace is waiting for that. In fact, there are tears in the eyes of the Lord Jesus. ^{as there were in} And Joseph's spoke to them through an interpreter. And as they were speaking to each other ^{on} with misery on they faces, ~~we~~ we are guilty in Hebrew, and he heard every word, they didn't know he was a Hebrew.

Grace is waiting

Begin

They were ^{whispering} trying, ~~that~~ you see, to themselves, and he was hearing. Do you know ^{when} when you speak ^{like that} like that, Jesus Christ is listening in. ~~Even~~ Even now when your conscience is speaking with you, he is listening in, and he turns aside in tears of love and he weeps; simply because you are not prepared to save yourself from that terrible, unnecessary, gruelling experience of straining your soul, because you are not prepared to go where grace wants you to go. ~~A~~ ^{It} time came when they did. I want ~~finish there, chapter 44, at last.~~ ^{It was} A long, long business, but I want to finish with this. At last it came, verse ~~14~~ 14, "Judah and his brethren, chapter 14 verse 14, came to Joseph's house, for he was ^{yet} there." I want to praise God for this. They came back to Joseph's house guilty, because a cup was found in Benjamin's sack, and Joseph was still there. ~~Jesus~~ ^{He} Jesus is still there. Right there waiting. Perhaps you have been struggling and wandering and groping in darkness, and beating about the bush and evading the truth, ~~He is still there.~~ Back they came into Joseph's house and Joseph was still there, waiting for ~~them.~~ ^{you} Grace is here, ^{ready} in this church tonight, still waiting for you. Jesus Christ has not moved an inch from Calvary. He is still waiting there for you. ~~And they came back.~~ And Joseph said unto them, "What deed is this that you done?" "Don't you know that such a man as I can certainly divine?" ~~Don't~~ ^{you} you know that I am the Lord Jesus? I can see through. Why did you play this game of evading the truth? ~~Don't you know that~~ such a man as myself can divine," said Joseph. Jesus Christ, of course, is greater ~~xxxxxx~~ than Joseph, isn't he? Verse 16, "And Judah said, what shall we say, ~~myxxxx~~ unto my lord? What shall we speak? How shall we clear ourselves? God has found out the iniquity of thy servant." That is exactly what he was waiting for. Yes, nothing to justify. What can we say? No words now. No justification, no excuses. God has found out our sin. ~~Chapter 45, then~~ ^{Eventually,} Joseph could not refrain himself ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ before all of them that stood by ^{him} them and he cried, "Cause every man to go out from me, and there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known ^{we} to his brethren. And he wept aloud." ^{and} And Joseph ^{his brethren} unto them, verse 3, "Brethren, I am

Joseph." Verse 44, ~~they~~ ^{you} were troubled, of course, and Joseph said unto them, ~~verse 4 as his brethren~~, "Come near to me, I pray you." And they came ~~near~~ ^{near}. And he said, "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt." What a shattering experience! ~~There they found themselves standing,~~ ^{as soon} as they made that realistic confession, he ^{would} not restrain himself any longer. He had to reveal himself. He wept aloud. And ~~he~~ said, "Come near." They were trembling and shuddering as he said, "I am Joseph." ^{When} Jesus says that to you, when you have been living ~~that~~ ^a lie, when you have been playing ~~with~~ ^{with} sin, and He comes near and he says, "I am Jesus." You thought you hated that man, but I am Jesus." Then you shrink back in fear and terror and he says, "I am Jesus your brother." You sold me ~~into~~ ^{into} Egypt, but I am Jesus, your brother. Come near." ^{Joseph} He comforted them, and he even tried to excuse them ^{saying} and he said, "Don't you be angry with yourselves that you ~~feeled~~ ^{felt} sold me, ^{for} God sent me before you that I may ^{preserve} ~~live~~ life." And, tonight Jesus, I ~~can~~ ^{can} almost see Him standing by each one of you and ^{us} saying, introducing himself and saying, "I am Jesus, your brother." You have been under conviction ^{for} these days. You have unnecessarily carried the ~~burden~~ ^{burden}, you have evaded the truth, to the extreme of causing sorrow and pain and unnecessary strain to your soul. "I am Jesus, your brother." IF you are prepared to speak the truth tonight, and ~~go~~ ^{not} and evade it, grace is waiting for you. ^{And} And he comforted them and he wept over them and then he kissed them and they talked with him." Yes, I'm sure ~~tonight~~ ^{some of you can sit in your bedrooms, perhaps, in the} and ~~talk about him.~~ What a sweet conversation. The burden has gone. Who took it? Joseph did. They did not forget it, but Joseph took it away. He forgave them. Gone. ^{At} At the place called Calvary, You stand there trembling, but you are one of those who suffer from ~~evason~~ ^{evason}. "Don't you fear, come near and to me," says Jesus. "I have made a provision for you." Perhaps you think ^{repentance} is too difficult. You think your ~~is~~ ^{sin} is the hardest to deal with.. Well, don't you try to ^{hide} ~~hide~~ it him, otherwise he kills you. Just take ~~him~~ ^{it} to Jesus Christ and say, "I have nothing to plead, I am empty handed, I am guilty." And he will comfort ^{you} each man. "I am Jesus, your brother, whom you sold to

Come near

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~~Restx~~

^{the cross}
sold to ~~Egypt~~ for your quilt. But, I died for ~~em~~ you. Come near
to Me."