

Genesis 42.26-38

Forgiveness is Granted, Trust is Earned

Last Week we Remembered

Historic Milestone of Christian History

500 yrs ago October 31, 1517

German R.Catholic Monk & Theology prof

95 pts Debate his Archbishop,



Same day? Posted 95 Theses to Church Door Wittenberg

Fact Checking: Not Sure of Date, PASTED Not Posted, Normal Notices

Absolute CERTAINTY Luther lit Fire 1517 Warms us in BEIJING Nov 2017

Reformation's Influence goes far beyond church doors.

Luther's trial @ Diet of Worms YUM! "Here I stand, I can do no other"

Called > "the trial that led to the birth of the modern world."

Ideas of Free Inquiry, Democracy, Education, Capitalism traced to Reformation

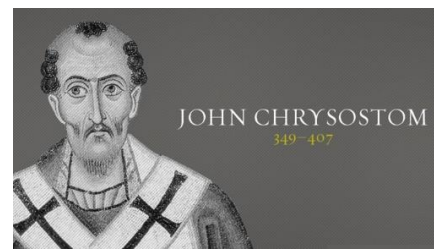
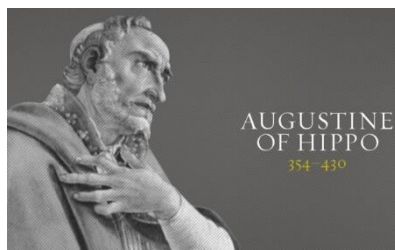
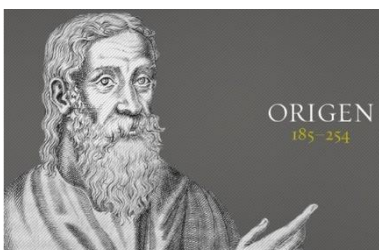
PROFESSORS Beijing Uni approach Disciplines thru Glasses of Reformation

Next Sunday 9 am Faith@Work: Reformation Sacredness All Callings in Society

Another FRUIT of Reformation in ZGC is our LECTIO CONTINUA Preaching

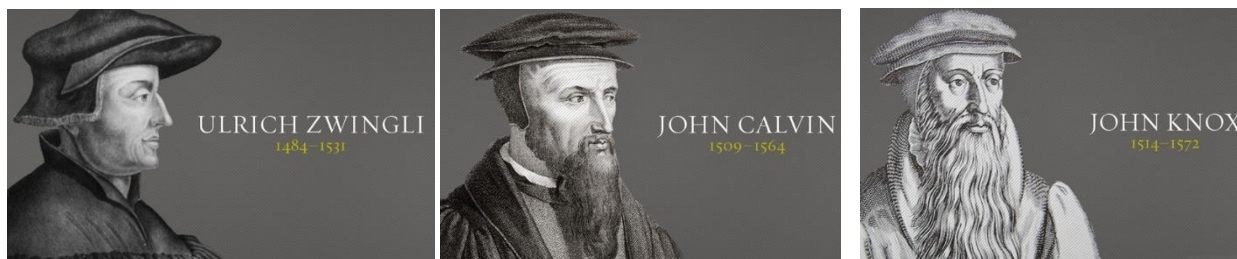
Latin way of Saying – Preach Thru Books of Bible from Beginning to End

Church of Middle Ages typically Used 1 Verse for Sermon > Shared Other Ideas



Reformers RETURNED to Practice of preaching thru Books of Bible as did

Origen in Egypt, Augustine N. Africa, Chrysostom in Constantinople



500 years ago ULRICH ZWINGLI preached thru Matthew in ZURICH

John CALVIN followed Zwingli's method in the city of GENEVA

John KNOX took the Method and the Message to SCOTLAND from Geneva

See what HOMIES Looked Like so you can HIGH FIVE them in HEAVEN

Today our LECTIO CONTINUA Study finds us in Genesis 42

FOCUS on Family of ABRAHAM – Grandson JACOB, 12 GREAT Grandsons

FAMINE Struck MIDDLE EAST – FOOD in EGYPT

Thanks to REVELATION of God – Dream of Pharaoh, Interpreted by JOSEPH

Joseph appointed VIZIER of Egypt FAITHFULLY Stewarded 7 yrs Abundance

Now 2 yrs into 7 yrs AFFLICTION

When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

Genesis 42.1-3

FUNNY Scene – 13 Grown Men – All LOOKING at their PHONES

NO FOOD – NO PLAN – NO EFFORT to Find Food for FAMILIES

Deacon STEPHEN will later tell us were 75 PERSONS IN ALL (Acts 7.14)

## 1. Cautious Brother

### a. Spirit-filled

Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?" Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are." Genesis 41.38,39

Like Pioneers of Reformation in their Nations – JOSEPH also was All ALONE SPIRITUALLY ALONE for 20 years – Testimony to Power of Spirit of GOD

Joseph – NO Bible, Church, Small Group, Believing Friends  
 Communion with God in AFFLICTION and AFFLUENCE  
 Dressed like Egyptian > DEVOTED to the GOD of ISRAEL

EXAMPLE – Speaks Openly about True God in Place he is Not Known

Joseph said to them, “...for I fear God” Genesis 42.18 > Beginning of WISDOM

#### b. Steward

“You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” Genesis 41.40

Joseph is Servant of Pharaoh, Steward of Egypt’s Resources – Guarding THEM  
 Gained PROSPERITY – Not for himself as STEWARD to Bless OTHERS

Entrusted with TREASURE – Not his – PROPERTY of People of EGYPT

Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land.  
 Genesis 42.6

#### c. Suspicious

Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.” And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.”  
 Genesis 42.6-9

Surprise! 2 weeks of TRAVEL 10 Brothers get to WalMart Brother Joe is Mgr

Now Older – Probably Few Pounds Heavier – Shaved Head like Egyptian

Wearing all GOLD BLING of Egyptian HIP HOP Artist

Looked different from SKINNY Jewish Kid they threw into a PIT 22 yrs Earlier

3 Kinds of People – WISE, FOOLISH, EVIL – Brothers have been EVIL

For PROTECTION of Nation and Himself, Wife, 2 Sons > CAUTIOUS

Last Time Together – Brothers had Happy MEAL while he was in MISERY

“We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”  
Genesis 42.11

Joseph did not know whether to LAUGH or CRY > HONEST?? Is that a JOKE?

When someone has to TELL YOU they are HONEST they're Probably NOT!

CONFINES Brother Simeon, What they did to him, HAVE THEY CHANGED?

Will they ABANDON Brother as 22 years ago they SOLD him into Slavery

TEARS Sign that he had FORGIVEN Them

BUT Not Yet Sure if he COULD or SHOULD TRUST Them

FORGIVEN Already – How? Not KILL THEM but is Kind and Generous

Sign that has FORGIVEN is that he GIVES – Lots of FOOD AND their Money

Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

Genesis 42.25

Joseph MOVED On to New Season of Life – New Family, Kids, Job, Purpose

Family that NEVER Thought he'd SEE Again SHOWS UP

Forgive Unfaithful Spouse – Be CAUTIOUS before you can LOVE Them Again

Forgive HUSBAND who BEATS You – MOVE OUT until Very Clear Changed

Counseled Women Beaten by Husband – Gotta Move Back/Submit > KILLED!

Marriage is Covenant: 1<sup>st</sup> Sacrificial Leadership THEN Loving Submission

Forgive Church Leader AFFAIR, Very CAREFUL Protect Integrity CHURCH

Forgive PEDOPHILE who REPENTS but Not INVITE them to Teach Children

DIFFERENCE between FORGIVING People and TRUSTING them Again

Joseph understood the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation. The reason some of us struggle to forgive others is that we fail to understand that forgiveness and reconciliation are not the same thing. Forgiving someone does not mean acting as if nothing happened...real reconciliation involves the rebuilding of trust when both parties to a broken relationship approach each other in forgiveness and true repentance.

Iain Duguid

## 2. Conspiracy of the Brothers

Jacob's Family in the Master Class in BLAME-SHIFTING

### a. Caught by the Lord

vs. 26-28 Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

In these Chapters Joseph constantly Mentions the Name of God

But this is FIRST Time in Story BROTHERS Mention NAME of GOD

Surely as SONS of Promise – Great Grandsons of Abe – Said Name of GOD

100's of Times they said "God THIS" "God THAT" "God WHATEVER!"

First Time MOSES records Name of God Coming Out of their Mouths – WHY?

MORE than Just Question > STATEMENT – GOD did This! God is Watching!

Thought God OVERLOOKED their Sins – Because of their Family Connections

God NOT just Far Away – Actively INVOLVED in their LIVES, WITH THEM!

EMMANUEL does not give them JOY – Presence of God puts them in PANIC

GUILTY – See God's Blessing as CURSE – He is OUT to Get YOU!

The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

Proverbs 28.1

Have you UNDERSTOOD that Life is Not just Random, Accidents, Chance?

Understand GOD Involved in BIG and LITTLE Things of DAILY Lives

God was doing good to these brothers in returning the money. But because they were not yet in a right relationship with him, they feared even his goodness and turned to each other in trembling.  
James Boice

do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? Romans 2.4

#### b. Convoluted by their Lies Now HONEST Sons Report to their DAD

vs. 29-34 When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, “The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we have never been spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.’ Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.’”

Impossible to commit just 1 Sin. 1 Sin guards another to keep from Finding Out  
How many more lies did Brothers tell for Over 20 years to Cover their SINS?

Jacob must have grilled these guys, Many Others asked What HAPPENED?

Once go DOWN this ROAD Better have GOOD MEMORY, Keep Story Straight

TRUE Sons of their Father JACOB – Name Literally means “Cheater, Thief”

Because Jacob Served Big Portion same DECEIT to his BLIND Father ISAAC

"God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap"

Galatians 6.7

#### c. Convinced they are Lost

v. 35 As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.

Thought they could HANDLE MONEY BACK in One SACK, Now All Back

WOW! Are we in BIG TROUBLE – NOT Really HONEST Men

That FOOD will NOT LAST for 7 years – They Gotta go BACK!

Only ONE Man in World who can GIVE us FOOD

Same Man now Holds our BROTHER Simeon as RANSOM

Won't give us MORE FOOD unless Bring FAVORED Brother BENJAMIN

He will NOW See just how DISHONEST we REALLY Are

v. 21 They said 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.”

Thought they were in WORST Possible SITUATION

But Actually it was BEST Place to be BROKEN Before God – NO OPTIONS

At the END of their ROPE – NO Human HOPE – Can Only LOOK to GOD

1505 Martin Luther left Law School > ENTERED MONASTERY age 21

NOT to Study Theology > but to SAVE HIS SOUL

As a Boy he Trembled > Frowning Face of Jesus in Church > Righteous Judge

ALL HIS YOUTH / Feared Death > FEARED JUDGMENT

DEVOTED SELF to Augustinian Orders / Fasted, Prayed, Confessed Sins

CONFESSED MOST TRIVIAL SINS / TOOK MANY HOURS at a Time

Superiors banned him from Confession Box UNTIL he has Something Serious

Meticulously followed Monkish Wisdom of Day /Self Righteous by Works

“If ever a monk could obtain heaven by his monkish works, I should certainly have been entitled to it”  
Martin Luther to Duke of Saxony

Wise Spiritual Father / Vicar General of the Congregation / John Staupitz

“Why are you so sad brother Martin?”

“I do not know what will become of me,” Luther deeply sighed.

“More than a thousand times I have sworn to our holy God to live piously, and I have never kept my vows. Now I swear no longer, for I know I cannot keep my solemn promises. If God will not be merciful towards me for the love of Christ and grant me a happy departure when I must quit this world, I shall never with the aid of all my vows and all my good works stand before him. I must perish.”

John Staupitz

With those SURPRISING WORDS / Staupitz sent Luther to study Scripture  
The brothers were not quite fully honest men yet, but they were getting to be.  
They were beginning to learn what it was like to live by the truth and not lies, by honesty rather than deceit.

James Boice

### 3. Clueless Brother

MOSES the AUTHOR thought we Needed COMEDY Break in TENSE Scene  
If have DUMB Family Members it is BIBLICAL > Here Really STUPID IDEA

v. 37 Then Reuben said to his father, “Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you.”

Not willing to SUFFER, but willing to SLAY his Sons – Like JEPHTHAH  
Strange GUY – Slept with Dad’s Girlfriend and says CRAZY STUFF  
Reuben > SON who Refused to WEAR HELMET when RODE his BIKE  
GRANDSONS bring JOY to GRANDPA – Won’t help to KILL THEM

### 4. Childish Father

v. 36 And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.”

Dad is VICTIM – All them are WRONG, BUT he is INNOCENT

Jacob organizes a PITY PARTY and Only One INVITED is Himself

Familiar Song: “No One Loves Me, this I Know, All my Troubles tell Me So!”

Joseph will later Declare > GOD Meant it for GOOD

Jacob WHINES – Everything is AGAINST Me – All is Wrong! WOE is Me!



HE began Family DYSFUNCTION by PLAYING FAVORITES w/ SONS

Jacob sinned against his sons by favoring Joseph. Joseph sinned against the brothers through arrogance and tattling. The brothers sinned against Jacob and Joseph by making Joseph disappear. There are no innocent parties in life...The question is not whether we have broken relationships, but what we do with them.

Iain Duguid

JACOB still plays FAVORITES Among Sons – Throws 10 UNDER Bus!

Benjamin, Favorite Wife RACHEL'S 2<sup>nd</sup> Son, Joseph's FULL Brother > Favored

v. 38 But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

Sometimes FAMILY Members need to SIT at FAR Ends of Thanksgiving Table

Sometimes Church Members do KABUKI Dance to Make Sure Never Meet

How can you Love UNSEEN God, when NOT Love Brother/Sister CAN See?

Every man upon the earth may find in himself something that needs mending.

Cotton Mather

Often we See people WHERE they WERE, Not Where they ARE

God working even in OLD MAN Jacob – Challenging IDOL made of his SON

Next Chapter see Jacob BACK Down from SELFISH Demands

JACOB is Son of PROMISE – God Not Finished with Him Yet!

Don't give UP on Your PARENTS and your GRANDPARENTS or OLD Pastor!

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1.6

JACOB changes MORE SLOWLY than JOSEPH

Perhaps Joseph's SANCTIFICATION was FAST-TRACKED by Adversity

"...suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope"

Romans 5.3,4

God did NOT PICK this Family because they are DREAM TEAM  
 Abe's Family is as MESSED UP as MY FAMILY and YOUR FAMILY  
 Jesus came to EARTH to FORGIVE SIN and FIX SINNERS

REFORMATION – Luther wanted to See RENEWAL of CHURCH  
 COMMUNITY of God's People that FEAR Him and FRUITFUL in Gospel  
 Need to GUARD that GOSPEL – Follow King Jesus in WORD and DEED

Way we KEEP Reformation ALIVE – Be Always REFORMING,  
 Follow the FIRST of Luther's 95 Theses...

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, ``Repent" (Mt 4:17), he willed the  
 entire life of believers to be one of repentance. Martin Luther, 1<sup>st</sup> Theses

Brownlow North EVANGELIST – N. England, Scotland, Ireland – 1858 Onward  
 As Began Ministry – Someone EXPOSED the RECORD of his SINFUL Past  
 Church Authorities STOPPED him from Ministry – In SHAME he Withdrew

Christ did POWERFUL Work of Conversion in North's Life

Dared to go PREACH in Local Church – On Arrival given Terrible Letter  
 Letter detailed all of his VILE Sins – And every Word of Letter was TRUE  
 North took Letter into PULPIT – Read It – “I am the man described here!”

“It is a correct picture of the vile sinner I once was; and oh how wonderful must  
 the grace be that could quicken and raise me up from such a death and trespass in  
 sins, and make me what I appear before you tonight, a vessel of mercy, one who  
 knows that all his past sins have been cleansed away through the atoning blood of  
 the Lamb of God.” Brownlow North

Very SINS Satan used to DESTROY North – Daringly used by him to Exalt Christ  
 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19.10

Genesis 42.<sup>26</sup>Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed.

<sup>27</sup>And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. <sup>28</sup>He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!” At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?” <sup>29</sup>When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, <sup>30</sup>“The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. <sup>31</sup>But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we have never been spies. <sup>32</sup>We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.’ <sup>33</sup>Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. <sup>34</sup>Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.’” <sup>35</sup>As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.” <sup>37</sup>Then Reuben said to his father, “Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you.” <sup>38</sup>But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”