



## #11- Heal a Family / Build a Nation

11/29/2009 - Jim Johnson – Gen. 42:18-38

“True guilt is the uncomfortable inner awareness that we have violated God’s moral law.” It produced partly by the conviction of God’s Holy Spirit and partly by our own conscience.” Guilt is like a fever. It indicates the presence of a virus or a bacterial infection. An untreated bacterial infection could lead to blood poisoning and death. Thanks God for a fever.

**Guilt is God’s Warning that Something is \_\_\_\_\_.**

God used a divinely arranged meeting to get Joseph’s attention. He will use the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the guilt that comes with it, to get the attention of his brothers. Genesis 42 outlines 5 fever signs of guilt.

### **A. The first sign of guilt – 18-21**

When they finally appeared again before Joseph, the brothers expressed to each other the guilt that had worked on them for 20 plus years. It was a confession though it was not directed to Joseph. They also vocalized a wish that they would have done things differently.

**The first sign of guilt: \_\_\_\_\_ I wish I would have done things differently.**

The past may haunt us, and we rehearse it in our minds over and over as if somehow we could change the sequence of events. This sense of regret may be the Holy Spirit nibbling at your conscience saying,

### **B. The second sign of guilt – 22-24**

Reuben did what guilty people have always done. He tried to transfer the blame to his brothers. Though Reuben had tried to stop them from killing Joseph, he seemed to be complicit in the ambush, and ultimately could have stopped the whole thing as the first born.

**The second sign of guilt: \_\_\_\_\_ I don’t like what I feel so I will transfer the blame to someone else.** When we start feeling the uncomfortable conviction of God, we want to get rid of it. God never intended us to walk through life with bags full of guilt weighing us down. He wants to take that guilt and eliminate it not disseminate it.

### **C. The third sign of guilt - 25-28**

Joseph made sure that the brothers got their grain. He also generously returned their money to them without them knowing. But one brother later found his own particular money sack in his own bag. A person with a clean conscience would have assumed it was a gift or a trick. But they immediately assumed that God was behind it and was bringing the consequences of their sin upon them.

**The third sign of guilt \_\_\_\_\_ God is punishing me for what I did.** Is all trouble a sign of God's disciples. No. But he does use difficulty to discipline us. (Heb 12:5-6) God pursues and chastens the child that He loves. It is painful and difficult, and it is His way of trying to get our attention.

#### **D. The fourth sign of guilt. 11,31,33,34**

The brothers arrived home and told Jacob what had happened. They actually did a fair job of retelling the story except for the fact that they were dishonest about being honest. In these few verses they portrayed themselves as honest men. There was almost a nervous obsession about it. But, in fact, they were not honest. They stood before the very man that they deceived 20 years earlier. And they left several pertinent facts out of their report to Jacob. They were not honest men, but they were feeling guilty – so they had to compensate and pretend that they were.

**The fourth sign of guilt \_\_\_\_\_ I need to give the appearance that I am OK.** We are very uncomfortable with guilt. So we try to put a mask on it, and hide it from ourselves and others. We project a message that says– “Its OK, I'm OK. There is an unnatural strain as we try to say those words. There is an obsession to repeat ourselves, a pressure on us to persuade others. There is a nervous twitch that gives us away. We assume a defensive posture as if we have something to hide.

#### **E. The Fifth Sign of Guilt - 37**

Once they had given their report, they began to unload and each one discovered his own money in his sack of grain. Jacob responded by refusing to let Benjamin go to Egypt. Reuben, the oldest, passionately stood up and told his dad that he could put his own 2 sons to death if he returned without Benjamin. How strange and calloused and yet Reuben was under a load of guilt. He had done something wrong. He could not bring Joseph back to life nor restore to him the happiness that the boy deserved. So Rueben decided that he should not be happy either. He emotionally let go of his two sons.

**The Fifth Sign of Guilt. \_\_\_\_\_ I don't deserve to be happy.** There are lots of folks like this. They made a mistake once; the guilt has grown. They flog themselves daily for their failure. Sometimes friends and family flog them too. They come to the point in life where they decide to settle for the dregs of life because they don't think they deserve any better.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Guilt is God's Warning that something is Wrong. What must be done?

1 John 1:8-9, *"If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Take each sin, and confess it to the Lord. Not only has He satisfied the legal debt of sin that we owed the law, he will also cleanse away all unrighteousness, including the nasty guilt we carry.

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#### **FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. How is your temperature these days? Are you affected by any of the five signs? If so which ones?
2. What do you suppose might be the root cause?
3. What should you do about it? Will you do it now?