

Genesis 42:1-38 **Our Conscience**

Introduction:

At the Diet of Worms, Martin Luther was called by the officials of the Roman Church and the State to renounce his views. But Luther did not mind standing against the whole world if God were on his side.

Luther said before the council: "Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason I do not accept the authority of popes and councils... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe."

The Disney film Jimmy the Cricket, said before his peers, "Let your conscience be your guide." Should Conscience be our guide? Conscience is God's gift to man however it is not a perfect guide because it has been affected by the fall of man. It is impaired because man's sin. Therefore the conscience needs support from the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. All believers must take captive the conscience by the Word of God.

I. God's Weapon of Famine

A. Deprivation

1. Amos the prophet – Turn To: Amos 4:6-10
2. What is worse than a physical famine? Amos 8:11-12; Deut. 8:3; Matt. 4:4

B. The Prodigal Son – Luke 15:14-16

II. God Awakens the Conscience

A. Fulfilled Prophecy

1. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him
2. Joseph uses cutting words to unsettle his brothers; and stimulate their conscience. He accuses them of being spies – v.9
3. Joseph's wisdom will test their truthfulness.
4. Joseph was in a government position of authority – Rom. 13:1-7
5. Joseph exercises his authority by putting them in prison for three days – v.17

B. Marks of a true confession

1. Admitting sin – v.21
2. Solitude – v.17
3. Fruit of repentance – Matt.3:6-8

C. The Wisdom of Joseph:

1. He holds Simeon to be imprisoned
2. He tests their honesty by restoring their money in the grain sacks

Conclusion:

Conscience:

1. *Although the Gentiles do not have the Law of God to instruct them to obey God, they do have the conscience to subdue them – Rom. 2:14,15*
2. *When it comes to Christians before their government we must be in subjection to the laws of the land (The US Constitution) No law is above God's Law. (Rutherford's Lex – Rex) Acts 5:29*
3. *Christians must keep their faith in good conscience – I Tim. 1:19*
4. *Some Consciences because of false doctrine have become "seared" (Gk. kausteriazō) "to burn off"*
5. *Consciences can be clean – Heb. 9:14; 10:22*
6. *Christians must maintain a good conscience before God and men – I Pet. 3:15,16*