**Scripture Readings:** Exodus 20 & Genesis 42

**Singing:** 173:1-6 – 141:1 – 123:1-3 – 83:1-3 – 6:4-6

**The hidden cost of hiding sin**

I. It spoils true joy II. It hinders true communion

**I. The Hidden cost of hiding sins:  *it spoils true joy***

A. Moses passes over an *unwritten story* of 20 years in Canaan

1. The story of Joseph’s brothers is the *story of a life with hidden sin*

2. Sadly Joseph’s brothers aren’t the only ones who live with sin-secrets

a. Are you at cost hiding – minimizing – reasoning away your sins?

B. Learn that ***an un-forgiven sin***will never be silent

1. That is because *God is the avenger of all such sins* (1 Thess. 4:6)

C. Not only does sin live on in the sinners but also in the ***victims of sin***

1. Joseph also lived with this ‘silent secret’ (v. 22-24)

a. God’s grace enabled him not to be ruled by his past (Ch. 41)

b. God’s providence prevented him from dealing with his brothers

D. Learn from David how to deal with un-forgiven sin: *Ps. 32:3-5*

**II. The Hidden Cost of Hiding sins: *It hinders true communion***

A. Undoubtedly Joseph might have *expected* this moment to come (41:57)

1. Yet still unexpectedly he faced his 10 brothers but missed the 11th

2. For more than a language – culture barrier stands in between them

a. the ‘past actions’ are like a solid wall

B. Therefore God is teaching us *through Joseph’s example*

1. Reconciliation can’t come without a *readiness to forgive*

a. he tested them through a prolonged trial of truth

b. the outcome determined *how he would deal with them further*

2. There can be *no* ***real communion and exercise of forgiveness unless***

***there is also a real acknowledgment of guilt***

a. confrontation someone about sin *is the truest love* (Lev. 19:17)

b. motivation to *confront* **must be** the *desire to forgive (Luke. 17:3)*

3. Why are these grinding and intense and prolonged tests necessary?

a. it is because their past behavior and their claim in vs. 7**: *true men*** • Joseph has reasons to doubt this: *actions speak louder!*

b. these tests are *necessary for us also* as we appeal to a greater

throne and a greater King than Joseph’s brethren did!

• ponder Hebrews 10:22 – Prov. 15:8 - Ps. 145:18

• ponder Prov. 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not*

*prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them*

*shall have mercy!*

C. The most essential ingredient for true communion is ***trust*** *which only*

*comes through be assured of the* ***truth*** *of the person*

1. At this point Joseph doesn’t *trust his brothers* telling him the truth

2. To tell the full truth about your sin to the person you have sinned

against is *to make yourself totally vulnerable because now you*

*confess to have ‘no more rights on anything from them’*

Closing Question to Examine Ourselves

**What is the evidence that we are *true – honest – upright men?***

A. You would be *true about all your sins* (John 3:20-21)

B. You would be *a true man at home* (1 Tim. 3:4, 12)

1. Clearly Jacob still don’t trust his sons

2. The best place to show up that you are a true man *is at home!*

a. *If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are*

*passed away and all things are become new*

• shows in *attitude – manners – actions – reactions at home*

C. You would be *true before God* (Ps. 51:4)