**Scripture Readings:** Exodus 20, Genesis 44:15-34 & John 18:1-9

**Singing:**

**The Portrait of Jesus in Judah**

I. Consider his pledge to his father II. Consider his confession before Joseph III. Consider his offer to Joseph

**I. Consider Jesus’ portrait in Judah’s pledge to his father**

A. Judah gradually emerges as the *leader of clan*

 1. The story about Joseph isn’t *really about Joseph*

 2. Each step in this history *reveals the glory of our God in redemption!*

 3. Ultimately we see *portrait of Jesus emerging* in Judah

B. Judah’s defining moment of change came already in ch. 43:8-9

 1. the only way to convince Jacob to let Benjamin go is *offer himself*

C. How different was this with *Judah’s great Seed, Jesus Christ*

 1. He didn’t just *pledge to sacrifice Himself* ***if needed***

 a. consider John 14:31, Ps. 40:8; John 10:18

**II. Consider Jesus’ portrait in Judah’s confession before Joseph**

A. Words can’t describe their distress upon discovery of silver cup (44:13)

 1. Though it concerned Benjamin, it was the sorest test for Judah

a. all former trials they endured, pale in view of this one

b. yet there was an easy way out of this trial Judah didn’t use

 2. There is scarcely a more passionate confession/plea than Judah’s

 a. what it reveals about him?

B. Not until we come to John 18:1-19 do we get the *full picture*

 1. The scene is ‘after leaving Gethsemane’

 a. recall His intense struggle as He saw full scope of His pledge

2. John wrote it *and Jesus went forth (vs. 1, 4)*

 a. seeing ‘open furnace door’ – bands of Romans soldiers, etc. –

 seeing cup of His Father – sword of justice *… He went forth!*

 • perhaps you feel this ‘furnace door – bands of God’s arrest

warrant – point of His holy justice – cup of wrath *… there is*

*no escape – nothing to satisfy – pay – no ransom?*

 • oh, there is a way w/ God: *Behold, High Priest going forth –*

*willingly He stepped forward to face band of soldiers*

- now He is the *sin-bearer – guilty one of sins He never*

 *committed but they are now His … see Father’s sword*

b. in that ‘going forth to face sword of God’ *lies hope as well as the*

 *certainty of all salvation*

 • it was easy for Him to escape if He so wanted:  *w/ one answer*

 *He leveled seasoned soldiers falling backwards: oh, what a*

*glimpse of majesty does our Christ Jesus shows us here!*

 • fear therefore, oh sinners who despise God’s law – resent His

 Gospel: *for what will it be to meet the wrath of the Lamb Who*

*has preached and pleaded in His preaching to hide ourselves in Him!*

III. The portrait of Jesus in Judah’s offer to Joseph

A. After Judah explained his promise re: surety *… he offered himself*  (33)

 1. It becomes a turning point for Joseph (ch. 45) but it is also the

*completion of Judah’s total change!*

a. from leading voice in proposal to sell Joseph for profit *to lone*

 *voice surrendering himself and his freedom for Benjamin/Jacob*

 • this was not ‘despair action’ – forced upon him *… he*

*volunteered to give up himself – his life – freedom – family* to spare his father

 • now Joseph has his question answered – at least re: Judah – he

 is *a changed man – old jealousies – deceit of past is* ***past!***

b. let it be clear: *apart from God’s grace at work there would have*

 *been no hope for this band of sinners: dysfunctional – reeking of*

 *murder – incest – deceit – kidnapping*

 • if God can redeem such, He can redeem you/me!

 • who here as a track-record worse than *Reuben – Simeon –*

 *Levi – Judah – Manasseh – Saul of Tarsus?*

c. God didn’t leave salvation of His people to *chance – or to*

 *ourselves* but God saves sinners b/c they can’t save themselves

(and aren’t even willing to be so)

B. But behind Judah’s portrait arises a portrait far more beautiful!

 1. Standing before *arresting band of soldiers – facing hand of justice –*

 *loaded with all the sins of His people for He stands here as Sin-bearer*

a. He offers Himself:  *If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way*

 • Judah offers himself indirectly for his own sins as he caused

 Joseph to be sold into Egypt

 • but Jesus doesn’t have *any sin of His own … as great High*

 *Priest He offers Himself to die for the sins of His people*

b. like Judah, Jesus offered Himself on one condition!

 • for Judah, ‘let the lad to up with his brethren’

 • for Jesus, *“If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way’*

 - Let *these go free* … don’t touch them – let them go!

 2. Stand amazed again, children of God  *… let these go their way!*

 a. these : *why them? What kind are they for which He did this?*

 b. yet ‘let these go their way’ from this sword of justice – deserved

 punishment *for I will take their sins – I will be surety for them*

 *– by my stripes I will heal them – by my wounds, I will pay for*

 *them*

Close: Is. 40:1-2