

## The Shaping of a Man

"God at Work"

April 19, 2006

*"Thus Joseph knew his brothers, but they did not know him."*

*(Genesis 42:8)*

## SUMMARY:

God is perpetually at work. Such was the case in Joseph's life...twenty plus years had expired since he had last seen his brothers who sold him into captivity. Remember, Joseph had been given a specific promise when he was a young teenage boy (see Genesis 36). God spent twenty years cultivating his heart, his attitude and character to truly inherit that promise. Ultimately, Joseph realized the fulfillment of that 'promise' by God. Yet it was not to glorify himself or be perceived as the 'hero' but rather to glorify God! Should that not be the thrust of all of our lives?

## NOTES:

It is important to note that there was a famine and that 'famine was severe over all the earth' (Genesis 41:57). Webster defines 'famine' as, "shortness of supply, scarcity of food/provision, dearth." In the midst of this world-wide famine, God had a plan and He accomplished it through His servant Joseph. Three aspects of His plan...

I. God's P \_\_\_\_\_

II. God's P \_\_\_\_\_

III. God's P \_\_\_\_\_ (42:28)

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

**Introductory Question:**\*Cite an example from your own life of how you have seen God 'at work' in and through your life in a positive way.

### QUESTIONS:

\*Place yourself in Joseph's shoes for a moment. How would you have responded in the midst of a similar situation?

\*Commentator F.B. Meyer mentions that these brothers seemed to have 'selected forgetfulness' or that 'their consciences slept' concerning what they had previously done to Joseph. What do you believe caused their consciences to 'awake' ?

\*Is there some 'seed of Divine Promise' that you hold in your heart which you are waiting to be revealed by the Lord?

\*Everyone makes mistakes, but not everyone humbly admits them and seeks forgiveness. Do you respect someone more or less when they admit their mistake?

\*As these brothers headed back to Canaan with bags full of grain, they sensed God's abundant provision of grace. Share a time when you experienced God's abundant supply of grace.

## APPLICATION:

## On Your Own:

Genesis 42

Philippians 2:13; 4:19

Romans 8:28

Jeremiah 29:11

We appreciate Paul Martin leading our session today.

