

SERMON TEXT

"The Good Father"

Genesis 42:1–9; 45:1–9

42 When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?”² And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.”³ So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.⁴ But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him.⁵ Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

⁶ Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground.⁷ Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. They said, “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.”⁸ And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.⁹ And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.” ...

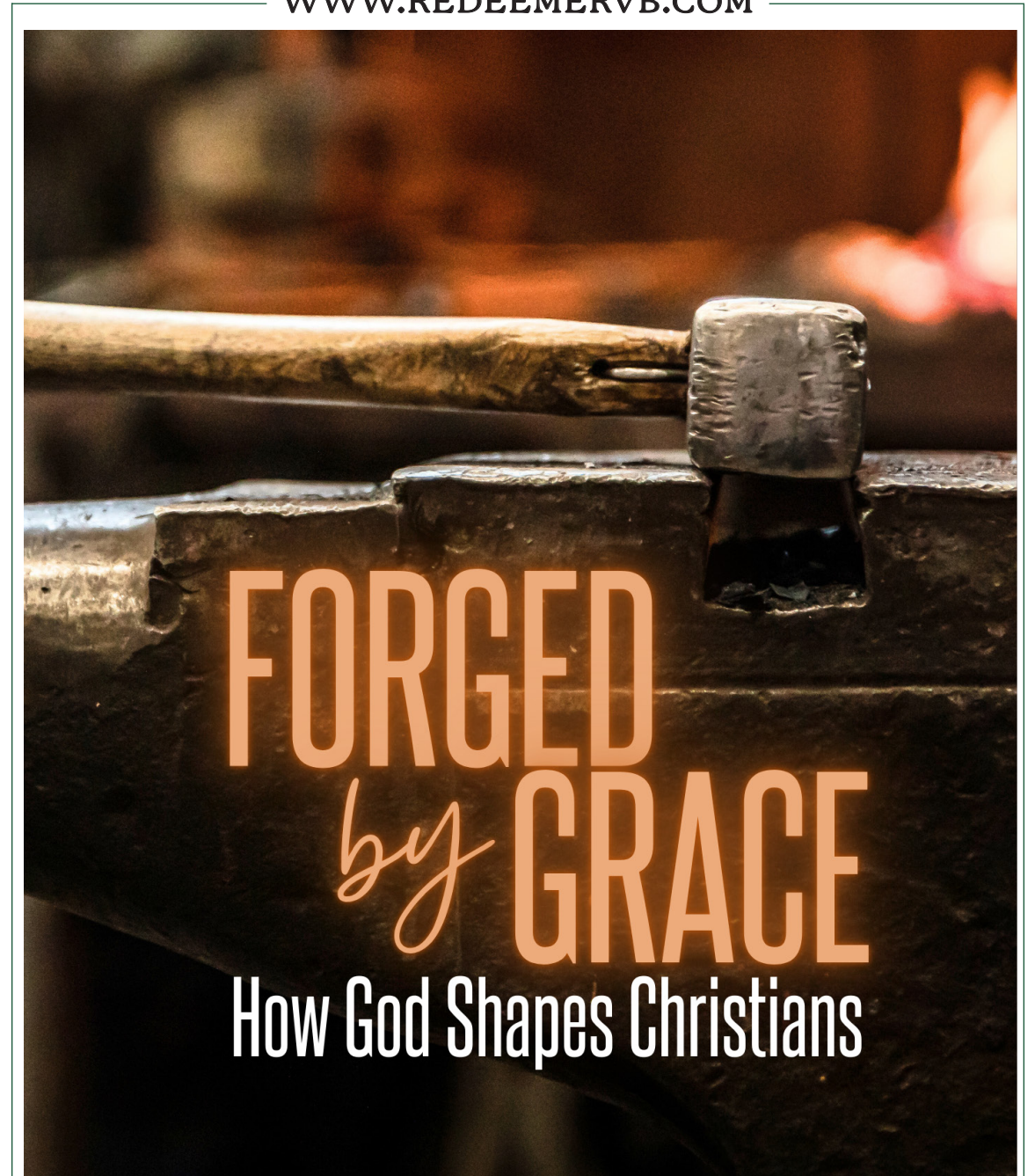
45 Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him. He cried, “Make everyone go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.² And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.³ And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father

still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry.

SERMON NOTES

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MEDITATION

He that is not a son of Peace is not a son of God. All other sins destroy the Church consequentially; but Division and Separation demolish it directly.

– Richard Baxter

When the Gospel enables us to live in love, even though we may have nothing else in common save Christ, it is a testimony to its power to transform a group of sinful, self-centered people into a loving community united by a common relationship with Jesus Christ.

– Mark Dever

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

You are our security, O Lord; we find refuge in You.

Everything that is good comes from You Lord!

You give me guidance and make my heart glad.

You lead me on the path of life.

In Your presence there is fullness of joy.

In Your kingdom there is fulfillment forever! Amen!

Based on Psalm 16

PRAYER OF ADORATION

WORSHIP IN SONG

CATECHISM

Q18: What is sinful about man's fallen condition?

The sinfulness of that fallen condition is twofold. First, in what is commonly called original sin, there is the guilt of Adam's first sin with its lack of original righteousness and the corruption of his whole nature. Second

are all the specific acts of disobedience that come from original sin.

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:5–11

CONFESSION

Father, there are so many things I know I should do that I don't, and so many things that I know I should not do that I do. Your word instructs me to be holy, obedient, diligent, humble, compassionate, selfless, and pure. But in my flesh I am worldly, rebellious, lazy, arrogant, indifferent, self-absorbed, and lustful. My life is a daily struggle against myself and sometimes victories seem few and far between. Lord, have mercy on me and cleanse me from unrighteousness. Help me to risk obedience to you and fill me with your forgiveness and hope.

GRACE

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

Ephesians 2:4–5

³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

SONG OF GRACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Discipleship Cove kids (Little Cove: Pre-K–1st grade; No Big Cove today) are dismissed. Nursery is available on the first floor on the other side of the building.

Offering plates are available in the front lobby. We invite you to place your tithes and offerings as you exit the service.

SERMON

Sermon Series: Forged by Grace

"The Good Father"

Genesis 42:1–9, 45:1–9

PASTOR CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING SONG

BENEDICTION

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PRAYERS OF MEDITATION

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the pioneer and perfecter of my faith.

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