

But he is not thinking of his own greatness nor how completely he has them in his power. He is thinking of his father and Benjamin. He does not at once reveal himself. He does not know their characters and he wishes to test whether they have repented before he tells them who he is, and takes them back into his confidence. Read the story of the different trials, how he puts their money in their sack; how he makes them bring Benjamin; how he causes his drinking cup to be hidden in Benjamin's sack; how the brothers accuse themselves of what they had done 22 years before. They have spent many a wretched hour since that time, and now as their troubles thicken around them, they feel that it is because of their sin. When Joseph makes himself known they are so troubled. The memory of all the wrong they did to him comes crowding thick upon them.

But Joseph tells them not to fear, that God sent him before them to preserve life. How he returns good for evil, and sends for his father and all the family to come and share with him the good of the land of Egypt.

Learn from this lesson.

1. The misery of sin. Joseph's brethren brought more wretchedness upon themselves than they did upon him.

2. What a blessed thing to return good for evil as Joseph did. We may not have such grand opportunities as he, but we can all have the spirit of Christ and return good for evil.

3. The greatest victory the world ever saw is that which overcomes evil with good.

May 6.

JOSEPH'S LAST DAYS.

Les. Gen. 50: 14-26 Gol. Text, Prov. 4: 18.
Mem. vs. 24-26. Catechism Q. 101.

In last lesson Joseph had sent for his father and soon had the joy of welcoming him to Egypt. Seventeen years the old patriarch lived there, a calm and peaceful sunset to his life after the years of sorrow over the loss of his beloved son.

With great pomp and ceremony the long funeral procession started for Canaan to lay the remains of Jacob beside his father.

This was the only visit of Joseph to Canaan since he had been sold into Egypt, more than 40 years before. With what strange feelings he would look upon the scenes of his boyhood days. Then he returned into Egypt, and though he lived for 53 years longer, we do not read that he ever visited his childhood's home again.

A guilty conscience gives no peace. Although it is now 17 years since Joseph forgave his brothers, they have lived in a measure of fear and distrust all that time, and now that their father is dead they fear

that he may still take vengeance upon them. Their small souls can scarcely understand the nobility of his generous forgiving love. They come to him, again acknowledge their sin, and plead for mercy.

Nobly he forgives them and still more shows them how God meant it for good and how it had turned out for good to himself and them, to all the land of Egypt and far beyond.

Fifty-three years longer Joseph lived in Egypt, a calm and happy, honored life, and at length at the good old age of 110 years he passed away.

But though he never went back to live in Canaan, he remembered the promises to his fathers. He knew that Egypt was not their home. He said, "God will come for you to take you out of this land and then you must take up my bones with you. So he died. They embalmed him with sweet spices, put him in a coffin, and kept the remains for 400 years till the time of the exodus.

How wretched the sin of these brothers made their lives. How calm and happy Joseph's later years. No memory of wrong doing to make them bitter. Young people if you wish to have a peaceful age, serve God when young.

How is Joseph a type of Christ?

A HOUSE TO LET.

One day an old man met a business friend on the street and suddenly said to him, "John, you have a house to let."

"A house to let?" repeated the young man "who told you so I have no house to let."

"I think you have, John. You are not prepared to lie in it yourself, I see."

"What do you mean?" demanded John.

"Why, I mean your house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. You have not made arrangements to move in, have you it's to let, then."

The young man walked away as though a hornet had stung him, and he did not let the sun go down on his head without taking steps to inhabit that house himself. *Morning Guide.*

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