

LIVING A LIE

Our lesson picks up in the lives of Joseph's brothers after 22 years of Living a Lie that affected the larger patriarch family of Jacob (66 people) (Gen.46:26).

Paul warned in (1 Cor.5:6-8) "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" **Saying in** (1 Cor.5:7) "**Clean out** the old leaven **so that** you may be a new lump, **just as you are in fact unleavened**. For Christ, our Passover also has been sacrificed."

The lie was a cover-up of a terrible crime committed by the brothers against Joseph (Gen.37). They plotted to kill him. They initially decided to throw him into a deep dry water pit to die of natural causes, but then sold him to slave traders headed to Egypt. To cover-up their act they killed a goat and took its blood and soaked Joseph's coat of many colors with it, then returning home presenting it to their father, Jacob as evidence of Joseph's demise. For the next 22 years they lived this lie as being true.

What the brothers did to Joseph was so traumatic that it left a large imprint upon their souls for 22 years.

(Gen.42:21) "Then they said to one another, 'truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw **the distress** of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore **this distress** has come upon us.'" [pay back is another lie]

(1 Thess.5:15) "**See** that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always **seek** after that which is good for one another and for all people". NOTE: see and seek are both (p.a. impv.2pl).

This lesson will study four aspects of recovering from the guilt of Living a Lie.
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1. **In evading the truth, the brothers sentenced themselves to 21 years of emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual pain bondage.**

They also put Jacob and the larger family in similar distress over the loss of a loved member of the family, a result of a horrible death.

They chose to Live the Lie as twisted truth with the façade of living a normal life. These are believers living by Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking or worldly thinking)

Conformity to the world rather than New Man Divine Viewpoint thinking, entering transformation by the renewing of their minds to the will of God. (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:22-24).

2. **For 22 years they attempted to hide their lie (their personal sin against Joseph) (overt sin)**

They swept it under the rug, they pushed it out of their minds, they justified their act – "he deserved it" and worked on getting on with their lives. This was even a greater lie they sold to themselves!

They were hoping that it would magically, or eventually with time, go away and be forgotten. For 22 years, they have lived with it pushed back out of their conscious minds, **but not out of their subconscious**.

When God decided it was time to deal with it, it happened. Out of the blue, they had a traumatic experience in Egypt by a new young prime minister that triggered their guilt ridden subconscious (Gen.42:19-23).

They had built up scar-tissue on their souls (callous or hardening of heart) (Eph.4:18) [porosis] (2 Cor.3:14) effecting their consciousness, **but not on subconscious** (the original record without sugar coating).

3. It is at this point that God intervened with His Over-Ruling Will.

There are three classifications of God's will.

- **Directive will:** What God reveals to you personally through categorical bible doctrine.
- **Permissive will:** What God allows you volitionally to choose against the revealed word of God.
- **Over-Ruling will:** When God intervenes in your plans (your will) for the Plan of God (God's will).

The Over-Ruling Will of God has forced the brothers to face the reality of their sin and to deal with it according to the Will of God (Gen.50:20; Rom.8:28; Ps.66:18; 1 John 1:9) **What sin after 21 years?**

This must be done to have the **inner peace of God** (Phil.4:6-9; Rom.8:5-8; Col.3:15).

4. The brothers projected their suffering; because of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus thinking, that God was punishing them for their sin!

(another avoidance technique). This is NO spiritual solution to the problem of sin.

God does not punish people for their sins of past, present, or future, whether unbelievers or believers.

God put all the sins of mankind on His Son while on the cross (John 1:29; 3:16-21; **19:30**) and Jesus proclaimed, **"it is finished!"**, **ALL sin has been paid for!** (Heb.9:12-15, 26-28).

Divine Discipline (Heb.12:5-11) is directed:

- Out of love towards unbelievers for salvation (1 Pet.3:18; Rom.1:16)
- And towards believers for spirituality (1 John 1:9; 1 Cor.3:1-3).

Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus solutions to spiritual problems create more problems.

What have we learned from this lesson?

Avoidance and Denial will not set one free from a poor decision made in the past, nor will either allow a believer to experience that **Inner Peace of God available to them.**

(Ps.103:10-12) He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

(Isa.38:17a) "Lo, for *my own* welfare I had great bitterness; It is You who has kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.

(Isa.43:25) "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

(Col.1:13-14) For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Phil.4:7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.