

Where's Your Chair?

Genesis 42 18-28



Then I acknowledged my sin to you and my iniquity I did not hide.
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 32:5-6

Praising:

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's cleansed by the
blood
so freely shed for me.

Reading:

Genesis 42:18-28
Their sin finds them out

Egypt's border faced Canaan, so Joseph's brothers would not immediately have felt that the charge of spying made against them was trumped-up or fabricated. But they were also distracted from the unfairness of their treatment by sheer guilt. Yes, they are defensive at first – as we all are when accused in the wrong. But on a wider moral canvas there is no doubting their culpability and they know it. With time to think in Pharaoh's prison,

they lay the blame for what has happened to them squarely at the door of what they had done to Joseph all those years before. The governor's demand that they should fetch their brother Benjamin seals it. Is it going to have to be Benjamin's life in payment for Joseph's? How had they thought they would ever get away with it?

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we know that in the end all will be revealed, so we pray

- for honesty to acknowledge what we know has been less than worthy of you
- for remorse to face up to the harm we have done and the hurt we have caused
- for resignation to accept the consequences of our actions with good grace

Father: I can still feel the horror and the shame of those times when my sin has found me out. So I pray for strength to let go of the sin that still clings so close – before it is too late. Amen

Doing:

Wednesday, 27 January 2016