



**Speaker:** Pastor Matt Magee

**Series:** Genesis - Meant for Good

**Sermon Title:** Guilt, Grief, & Grace in Awakening One's Conscience

**Scripture:** [Genesis 42](#)

**MAIN IDEA:** 4 tactics God uses to awaken a sleeping conscience, bringing us to repentance.

## INTRODUCTION

- Conscience: an aspect of our human nature as those made in God's image—a gift from God—that, when working properly, tells someone of their obligation to righteous living before God. It is the inner sense, or inner voice (as some say), that clues us into what is right and wrong.
- Sin has disastrously affected the conscience. BUT GOD does not leave us to our own devices. He intervenes to awaken and purify the conscience of His people through repentance and faith-filled obedience.

Tactic #1: The *pressure* of NEED (Gen 42:1-11 (*esp.* 1-6a, 7b, 10)).

Tactic #2: The *principle* of REAPING WHAT YOU'VE SOWN (Gen 42:6-17).

PROMISE-FULFILLMENT: Gen 37:7 finds its fulfillment in 42:6. Joseph is the sheaf now standing over his brothers, who are the sheaves now bowing down to him. The promise-fulfillment motif points to Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of all saving themes. We'll see this develop through the rest of Genesis.

Tactic #3: The *press* of SOLITUDE (Gen 42:17-22)

*God uses tactics 1-3 to make Joseph's brothers realize their GUILT. Now, we see a window of Joseph's true GRIEF, before we see Joseph extend rich GRACE upon them (Gen 42:23-25).*

Tactic #4: God tempers conviction with GRACE (Gen 42:25-28)

## CONCLUSION

When the Lord puts the pressure on, these tactics (and more) are means of God's grace—or a way of accomplishing in our lives what we would never accomplish if God's kindness did not lead us to repentance.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Describe the conscience.
2. Recall four types or descriptions of consciences mentioned in Pastor Matt's sermon according to the following passages.
  1. 1 Tim. 4:2
  2. Rom 2:14-15
  3. Heb 9:14
  4. Acts 23:1; 24:16; 1 Tim 1:5
3. Is it a good idea to *let your conscience be your guide*? Why or why not?
4. If we have confessed our sin but still have a troubled conscience, does it mean that Satan is accusing us or could there be the need for deeper repentance?
5. How are you able to look back on your life (or consider a current circumstance) and see each of these 4 tactics at work in your life?
6. Have you experienced God's grace in ways that compounded your guilt because you had hidden sin?
7. In what ways are you learning to recognize God's grace through tactics like these?