

Genesis 42:24-43:34
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GENESIS 42:24-43:34

REVIEW:

We left off in our last study together in verse 23. Joseph has been taken from prison. He has interpreted pharaoh's dreams. He has been made prime minister of all of Egypt. He was given the name Zaphnathpaaneah. He was given a wife, Asnath - one of the daughters of the priests of On. He now has governed Egypt through 7 years of incredible prosperity, and the seven years of famine have begun.

2 years into the famine, Jacob told his sons to go down to Egypt to buy grain. Egypt was known as being productive in times of draught because of their irrigation systems that drew from the Nile.

But don't send Benjamin.

As they go down Joseph recognizes them. They don't recognize Joseph because they haven't seen Joseph for 20 years. He was 17 years old when he was sold into Egypt. He is dressed like an Egyptian, he is speaking Egyptian.

As they come to buy grain he speaks to them through an interpreter.

Joseph accused them of being spies.

They say we aren't - *we are all one man's sons.*
He asks them - *are there any more of you?*

They say - *We have 2 other brothers - one who is not (that would be Joseph who is standing in front them) and the youngest Benjamin is at home with the father.*

Joseph says - *I think your spies and the way I'll find out is I'll keep you here but one of you will go back and fetch your brother and if you come back with him I'll know your story is true.*

So Joseph puts them in prison for 3 days and these men begin to stew in their guilt over what they had done to Joseph 20 years ago.

After 3 days he takes them out and says - *I'll keep one of you here and send the rest back to get your brother.*

The brothers begin to argue among themselves - not knowing that Joseph heard and understood - *Surely this is because of what we did to Joseph and how when he was crying from out of the pit we sat there and had dinner.*

Reuben chimes in and says *I told you not to do that to him (a 20 year old I-Told-You-So)*



Joseph at this point is overwhelmed in his heart - and this is where we left off.

{24} And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. {25} Then Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provision for the way: and thus did he unto them.

Joseph KNOWS that there are going to be 5 more years of famine - he KNOWS they are going to be back - so he sends them away.

{26} And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence.

About 250 miles from Memphis to Hebron.

{27} And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it was in his sack's mouth. {28} And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?

Remember - these are guilty men.

If you find a sack of silver and say - *OH NO, WHAT IS GOD DOING TO ME* - you are a guilty man! If most anybody else found a sack of silver they would say - *THANKS GOD! YOU MUST REALLY LOVE LOVE!!*

{29} And they came unto Jacob their father

We can only imagine their conversations on the way -

WHAT in the world is dad going to say when we tell him we have to take Benajmim back?

No way he's sending Benjamin back - Simeon is going to ROT in Egypt.

{29} And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying, {30} The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country. {31} And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies: {32} We be twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan. {33} And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men; leave one of your brethren here with me, and take food for the famine of your households, and be gone: {34} And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye are no spies, but that ye are true men: so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffic in the land. {35} And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack: and when both they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid. {36} And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me.

REMEMBER - God has APPEARED to this guy. God has SPOKEN to this guy.

WE think - *If God would appear to me - or if I heard God speak to me - I would never have any doubts when there was trouble.*

Jacob is a man with DOUBTS - EVERYTHING is against me.

KEY INSIGHT:

Jacob here is guilty of looking at circumstances

We can not even begin to understand the WISDOM of God in being able to ORCHESTRATE even the WORST circumstances for our good

BECAUSE we don't have such understanding we are prone to see things as AGAINST us
The truth of the matter is that God is FOR us

Rom 8:31-39 NKJV;

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? {32} He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? {33} Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. {34} Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. {35} Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? {38} For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, {39} nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

{37} And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee:

I can hear his sons saying - Gee, thanks dad!

*deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again. {38} And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone **(the 10 must be thinking - what are we, dirt?)**: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. **(Simeon can rot!)***

CHAPTER 43

Gen 43 KJV; And the famine was sore in the land.

{2} And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.

They're not going down for Simeon - they're going down there for food.

It is so great that God has seen fit to record this moment - and the father son argument -for us.

Jacob had put his foot down - with extreme prejudice - **YOU ARE NOT GOING DOWN THERE!**

But when they run out of food he changes his tune!

NOTE WELL:

Man's extremity becomes God's opportunity.

You've lost your job...The doctor has a terrible diagnosis...You're at the end of your resources

BY THE WAY:

The famine was for SEVEN years.

7= the number of completion/perfection.

The famine would not end UNTIL it had accomplished the sovereign purposes of God.

The famine was MEASURED out perfectly to accomplish the Lord's will in Jacob and his family.

That was to PRESERVE the descendants of Abraham.

To bring them for a season OUT of Canaan into Egypt.

KEY APPLICATION:

The same is true with our trials.

They are PERFECTLY MEASURED in their length and intensity to accomplish the purposes of God for our lives.

{3} And Judah spake unto him, saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. {4} If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food: {5} But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you. {6} And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother? {7} And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother? and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?

This is an amazing passage!!

It is a family argument.

and we will arise and go; that we may live, and not die, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.

If we don't go and take Benjamin we are all going to die right here.

{9} I will be surety for him;

Judah's a nicer guy than Reuben - Reuben said - *If I don't come back - kill my boys.* Judah said - *I will be the surety for Benjamin.*

of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever: {10} For except we had lingered, surely now we had returned this second time. {11} And their father Israel said unto them,

The old Jacob speaks up here.

If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:

They thought they could BUY the favor of this powerful Egyptian man.

CRUCIAL:

They had NO IDEA of the bounty that Joseph had in store for them!

Bounty that they didn't deserve - but would freely give.

NOTE WELL:

Yet this is such a great picture of the way that we think we can approach God.

How desperate we are to PAY OUR WAY with the One with whom we must deal.

He wants to BLESS us with life abundantly, every spiritual blessings in heavenly places - - all of which we DO NOT deserve and CAN NOT earn - Yet we bring Him our fruit and honey.

GRACE is something that our flesh LOATHES because it so attacks our pride.

{12} And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight: {13} Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man: {14} And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved. {15} And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand, and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph. {16} And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

Joseph's heart must be pounding.

He hasn't seen Benjamin for 20 years.

{17} And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house. {18} And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses. {19} And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house, {20} And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food: {21} And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand. {22} And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks. {23} And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money. And he brought Simeon out unto them. {24} And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender. {25} And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there. {26} And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth. {27} And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive? {28} And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance. {29} And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son. {30} And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.

This is filled with so much pathos - it is such a moving scene!

REMEMEBER - In Joseph we have a PICTURE of Jesus -

Jesus YEARNING for us - MOVED WITH COMPASSION for us.

Is THIS how you think of Jesus?

{31} And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread. {32} And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews (the word is haburai = nomads / shepherds - it is from this word that we get the term Hebrew) for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

They had this disdain for nomads and shepherds because this was a very sophisticated civilization and culture

{33} And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.

KEY QUESTION:

WHY are they amazed?

Because this man whom they thought to be a perfect stranger - set them in the exact order of their age.

Dr. Henry Morris in his commentary on Genesis said that the odds that a stranger could get it right the first time is 30,917,000 to 1

{34} And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.

In Egypt they would give a five-fold portion to a prince.

Joseph is doing this to see their reaction to Benjamin - to see if they would be jealous of Benjamin.

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