

Genesis 42:7-23  
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## GENESIS 42:7-23

*{7} And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. {8} And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.*

### REMEMBER -

We said that Joseph is a very powerful picture Jesus.

### KEY OBSERVATION:

Here we see these DESPERATE men not recognizing their source of provision - their "savior"

It is this GULF that Joseph ACHED to bridge

### KEY INSIGHT:

This is a great PICTURE of Jesus and the world that is lost and perishing

The same is true for this world that is so DESPERATE for life and love but does not recognizing it's source of provision - it's "savior"

*[John 1:10](#) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

It is this GULF that Jesus came to bridge

*{9} And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

I do NOT believe that Joseph is being cruel - What Joseph is doing is for the GOOD of his brothers.

- They were HARD and PROUD men
- They had massacred the entire city of Shechem
- They had sold their brother into slavery

It would take a MAJOR UPHEAVAL to set these guys right

### NOTE:

It is sometimes necessary for God to speak to us in harsh tones at times. People don't run to embrace this concept of God.

### EXAMPLE:

Romaine - big truck driver whining about how his wife wasn't meeting his needs - Romaine got up - went to



the nursery/toddler room grabbed a package of huggies and handed them to guy and said - "put these on - you're nothing but a big baby!! Are you praying with your wife? Are you in the Word together?"

When Romaine went to be with the Lord his memorial service was packed - not because he was some "pulpit super star." It was packed with people who owed so much to his **fearless love!** A love that was NOT AFRAID of being disliked.

Eulogy after eulogy from guys who at first wanted to punch Romaine whose lives NEEDED someone who loved them enough to be rough - whose lives were turned around post-shock.

*{10} And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. {11} We are all one man's sons; we are true men (honest men - you can trust us - and Joseph's thinking - Yeah I know!), thy servants are no spies.*

These guys are all between 40 and 60 years old now.

*{12} And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. {13} And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not.*

Imagine Joseph hearing this - If you're not keeping up with the story - Joseph is the ONE who IS NOT!

*{14} And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies: {15} Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. {16} Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies. {17} And he put them all together into ward three days.*

No doubt Joseph was seeking the Lord during these 3 days

*Lord - This is the fulfillment of the dreams you gave to me - but how am I supposed to process all of this - I've stood before Pharaoh and given you the glory - but now Lord - how am I supposed to handle this now.*

All the while - his brothers in prison are coming to grips with the reality of what they had done to their brother.

And after those three days Joseph receives what he believes to be the mind of the Lord

*{18} And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: {19} If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: {20} But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.*

They are going to have an argument - and Joseph will even drop on them and they won't know that Joseph understands them.

*{21} And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear;*

Joseph now discovers for the first time just how much they hated him.

**We are truly guilty** - They are now pierced to the heart

21 years of trying to COVER their guilt and the Lord GRACIOUSLY brings them into a prison cell to come face to face with their guilt - They pronounce themselves GUILTY

### CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

For them to be truly blessed in being reconciled to Joseph - and to APPRECIATE the mercy and love extended to them - they MUST first become aware of their sin against him

**So it is with man and the Lord Jesus Christ - grace is NOT understood apart from an understanding of your sin.**

*therefore is this distress come upon us. {22} And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. {23} And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.*

Every intricacy of your personality is known to Jesus

[Ps. 103:14](#) *For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust.*

### CLOSING THOUGHTS

Here they are 20 years later and they are burdened with guilt.

GUYS - If you are a Christian struggling with guilt (an abortion - a ruined family...) You NEED to know that the work of the Cross is AWESOME -

*The blood of Jesus Christ, God's son, cleanses a man of ALL sin.*

Going to church won't take care of guilt.

Going to the house of God is no remedy

You need to know the God of the house of God Who promises to cleanse you of ALL your sins through faith in His Son.

It is NOT enough to have all of the right information about Jesus.

You need to KNOW Jesus - THAT is eternal life.

My challenge to you personally - do YOU PERSONALLY know Jesus?

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