

FINAL STUDY NOTES - GENESIS CHAPTERS 42 & 43 - 9/2-3/24

CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

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PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, Suggest using *WAZE* (waze.com/live-map) or *MapQuest* (mapquest.com),
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OPENING PRAYER

Genesis Chapter 42 – Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt - (vs. 1-24); The Brothers Return to Canaan – (vs. 25-38)! Good study on guilt!

Genesis Chapter 43 – Joseph’s Brothers Return with Benjamin - (vs. 1-34)!

REVIEW:

Joseph’s Rise to Power – (Gen 41:55-57) So when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Then Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph; whatever he says to you, do."

[56] *The famine was over all the face of the earth, and Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. And the famine became severe in the land of Egypt. [57] So all countries came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine was severe in all lands.*

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Gen 42:1 When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?"

- **The eleven sons were probably looking at each other in sort of a what-are-we-going-to-do, kind of a thing?** How are we going to survive?" Now, we don't really know why the brothers hesitated to head down into Egypt under their own initiative. They very likely would not have done so without their father's clear command to do so.
- **It also possible that they have memories of twenty plus years ago when they had sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt.** And Egypt is just kind of like a bad memory for them over what they've done. We will soon see that what they've done to Joseph is as fresh inside of their hearts and their minds as if it happened yesterday. They may be a little hesitant to go down there because of the **guilt** of their past sin.

Gen 42:2 And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die."

Gen 42:3 So Joseph's ten brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt.

Gen 42:4 But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "Lest some calamity befall him."

- **Now Jacob was an extremely wealthy man. He had the money to buy grain, but if there is no grain** to be bought, your money doesn't do you any good, but I hear there is grain in Egypt. Go on down and buy it.
- **So the ten oldest of Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain.** Joseph's full brother Benjamin, the eleventh, stayed home with his father. At this time Joseph was thirty-eight years old. He was seventeen when he was sold by his brothers. It could be that it was a while into the famine before they had to come down. His brother Benjamin would now be about twenty-three years old. The last time Joseph saw him he was just a little kid about three. He hadn't seen his little brother Benjamin for a long time. He was the only full brother to Joseph, but because Joseph was thought to be dead, Jacob sort of protected him and he took the place of Joseph in the heart of his father.

Gen 42:5 And the sons of Israel went to buy grain among those who journeyed, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

- **People were journeying from all over down to Egypt to buy grain** because word was out that there was plenty of grain in Egypt. So they came with these other people who were journeying to Egypt to purchase grain.

Gen 42:6 Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth.

- **Verse nine tells us that Joseph remembered his dream, seeing his brother's bowing down to him** where he had gathered together his sheaf. As they are bowing down with their heads on the ground, I imagine that dream flashed back in his mind. Much of Joseph's appearance had changed from seventeen to thirty-eight and they didn't recognize him. Also he was dressed as an Egyptian, speaking to them through an interpreter, speaking roughly to them!

Gen 42:7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he acted as a stranger to them and spoke roughly to them. Then he said to them, "Where do you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan to buy food."

- **Spoke roughly to them!** Joseph is giving his brothers a little taste of their own medicine all the way through this thing. But it is all kind of a test to try, to expose their character, bringing to their remembrance what they had one day done to him.

Gen 42:8 So Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Gen 42:9 Then Joseph remembered the dreams which he had dreamed about them, and said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the nakedness of the land!"

- You've been sent by governments because they have heard that we have plenty of grain and you are going to bring down your armies and invade us and try to take away the grain. *You are spies!*

Gen 42:10 *And they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food.*

Gen 42:11 *We are all one man's sons; we are honest men; your servants are not spies."*

- **The ten brothers are telling the truth that they were not spies.** We're really brothers. They are honest in this. They weren't honest in other things. When they sold Joseph, they took his coat, highly recognizable by his dad, killed a little goat, put the blood on the coat, tore it up and took it to the dad and said, "Do you recognize this coat?" He said, "Yes, that is the coat of Joseph. Surely he has been torn by wild beasts." They allowed their dad to grieve and believe that lie for twenty plus years! Dishonest, yes, but in this they are telling the truth.

Gen 42:12 *But he said to them, "No, but you have come to see the nakedness of the land."*

- **Joseph, continuing to test them.** He won't let go of this accusation of their being spies, which is a capital offense! From their perspective, here is the second most powerful man in the world now having on his mind of not just giving you grain, but now has your very life is in his hand!

Gen 42:13 *And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."*

- **Here Joseph learns two of the most important things to him!** Number one, his younger brother is still alive! They didn't kill him or throw him in a pit, just like they've done to Joseph. The other thing that he learns is that his father is still alive! So, very exciting is all of this!

Gen 42:14 *But Joseph said to them, "It is as I spoke to you, saying, 'You are spies!'"*

Gen 42:15 *In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here.*

Gen 42:16 *Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!"*

Gen 42:17 *So he put them all together in prison three days.*

Gen 42:18 *Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God:*

Gen 42:19 *If you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined to your prison house; but you, go and carry grain for the famine of your houses.*

Gen 42:20 *And bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.*

- ***In this manner you shall be tested.*** Now what he's doing to them, clearly is to test them by the life of Pharaoh. May Pharaoh perish if you escape by the life of Pharaoh. You shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. I'm going to keep one of you. When the rest of you come back with this younger son, then I'll know that your story is true, but I want to have that kind of proof.

Gen 42:21 *Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*

- ***We are truly guilty concerning our brother.*** Here we get a sense of what we don't know anywhere else in the record. That when Joseph was down in that pit His life was in real danger. He is begging and pleading to have mercy on him. They showed him no mercy. Now the ten brothers are being treated roughly. This is all being meted out to them. Their first thought goes right back to what they did to Joseph.
- ***Confessing their own guilt!*** *They said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother* for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us *and we would not listen to him, therefore this distress has come upon us*
- ***The power and the longevity of a guilty conscience.*** Guilt has a long shelf life. It lasts a long, long time. It has been said that **time heals all things. But time doesn't** heal guilt! Especially when it allows you to bury it under a lot more other bad things that we've done. We can try to deal with it by hardening my conscience as the years go by.
- ***Time is not the way that God has chosen to deal with guilt.*** We deal with guilt by confessing it and asking God for forgiveness for the sins we have committed against other people. That is how guilt gets dealt with.

- **We must confess our sins. (1Jn 1:9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** That's how we deal with sin. God, I am so sorry. I ask for Your forgiveness over what I did there at that time, in my life to that person, Then we begin to heal up in light of the sin that I've committed against them. As we do that as we take the sin, saying, Listen, this is what I did. I'm sorry for what I did here. I ask for Your forgiveness in all of that. We bring that forward and do that.
- **The Bible says in Hebrews that God then cleanses us from an evil conscience,** the guilty conscience. *(Heb 10:22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*
 - ✓ **With a true heart** - Deeply convinced of our need of help, and truly in earnest to obtain it.
 - ✓ **In full assurance of faith** - Being fully persuaded that God will accept us for the sake of His Son, and that the sacrificial death of Christ gives us full authority to expect every blessing we need.
 - ✓ **Having our hearts sprinkled** - Not our bodies, as was the case among the Hebrews, when they had contracted any pollution, for they were to be sprinkled with the water of separation, *Num 19:2-10*; but our hearts, sprinkled by the cleansing effectiveness of the blood of Christ, without which we cannot draw near to God.
 - ✓ **From an evil conscience** - Having that deep sense of guilt which our conscience felt taken all away, and the peace and love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit given unto us. (Adam Clarke)
- **God is going to do a great work in bringing them out from under that kind of life.** God is doing good things for Joseph here! He is also doing good things for these brothers, too, by bringing that sin forward in order that they must address that sin, and to deal with it! Then they will be free of it!
- **Is there any continuing guilt in my life? How clear am I in what the Bible says about dealing with the sin of guilt? Do I know and understand the meaning of having my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience?**

Gen 42:22 And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not speak to you, saying, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Therefore behold, his blood is now required of us."

- **The brothers are talking in Hebrew.** They don't know that Joseph is understanding what they are saying. He is learning much about his brothers right now. That they feel terrible for what they did 22 years earlier! They are changed men! They are not the cold blooded, heartless, callous men that they were 22 years earlier. They feel terrible for what they had done.
- **Joseph is also learning that Rubin did not play a part in selling him in slavery in Egypt.** Joseph realizes in that confession that they all think he's dead. In their minds, there is no way that you could be sold as a Hebrew from Canaan, not with their attitude and treatment of the Egyptians toward foreigners that you could survive for 22 years. They are thinking that we killed our brother. In their wildest dreams, they could not believe that he was still alive.

Gen 42:23 But they did not know that Joseph understood them, for he spoke to them through an interpreter.

- **The brothers did not know that Joseph understood them.** For he spoke to them through an interpreter. He could have just begun speaking in Hebrew. But he didn't do that. Joseph is a very disciplined man on what he's doing right here.
- **Joseph has a plan and he's got a couple of big questions on his mind.** He is not going to reveal who he is or what he's about until those questions are answered. The two big questions are: **#1 is, what is the attitude of these ten brothers toward my younger brother?** Are they treating him presently the way that they once treated me?
- **And #2, what is the attitude of my ten brothers toward my father?** In other words, are these truly changed men? He sees it a little bit here, but he's going to have him them jump through several hoops, catching them at their best and at their worst, to see if their lives have truly changed! He is going to discover that God's has been mightily at work, not only in his life but in the life of these brothers!

Gen 42:24 And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.

- **And wept.** It is just overwhelming to him! My dad is still alive! My brother is still alive! Joseph sees that **his brothers have been tormented in even a greater measure by their guilt.** And it overwhelms him here!

- **Joseph is also doing something in holding Simeon**, because now he's got a living map for how to get back to the family, if they do not return in a timely manner. Having one of the brothers, he can say to the brother lead me to my family. Simeon would have known where to take him. So, we see Joseph is a very, very sharp man. We can see God's guiding hand in all of this!

Gen 42:25 *Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them.*

Gen 42:26 *So they loaded their donkeys with the grain and departed from there.*

Gen 42:27 *But as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey feed at the encampment, he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.*

Gen 42:28 *So he said to his brothers, "My money has been restored, and there it is, in my sack!" Then their hearts failed them and they were afraid, saying to one another, "What is this that God has done to us?"*

- **Notice the continuing impact of the guilt of the ten brothers.** Instead of praising the Lord for a possible blessing, their guilt is causing them to be suspicious of everything! Their hearts failed them and they were afraid saying to one another, *what is this that God has done to us now?* Their guilty consciences are preventing them from even thinking that this may be a blessing from Jehovah Jireh – God sees and God provides!
- **They think, oh, no! The money is in our sack. This gives an opportunity** to that Egyptian, the man, to accuse us of stealing from Egypt. So they don't like it. They just wanted a nice clean regular transaction. And that's not what happened.
- **The man is going to think that we ripped him off, that we have stolen the grain.** How are we ever going to go back and face that man?

Gen 42:29 *Then they went to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan and told him all that had happened to them, saying:*

Gen 42:30 *"The man" (this term, describing Joseph, used 9x in chapters 42 & 43) who is lord of the land spoke roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.*

Gen 42:31 *But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies.'*

Gen 42:32 *We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father this day in the land of Canaan.'*

Gen 42:33 *Then the man, the lord of the country, said to us, 'By this I will know that you are honest men: Leave one of your brothers here with me, take food for the famine of your households, and be gone.*

Gen 42:34 *And bring your youngest brother to me; so I shall know that you are not spies, but that you are honest men. I will grant your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.*

- When you come back again, bring your youngest brother, proving that you are telling the truth, and if not, then don't expect to see my face!

Gen 42:35 *Then it happened as they emptied their sacks, that surprisingly each man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.*

- Oh man, what is happening to us?

Gen 42:36 *And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."*

- **Peter said that one of our problems is that we only see that which is near**--the nearsightedness of the believer. My inability to peer into tomorrow, into next week, and next month. Looking at my situation today, looking at the difficulties that I am facing, I am often prone to cry out with Jacob, "Everything is going against me."
- **That is only because I don't know the full plan of God.** Jacob didn't know the full plan of God. He didn't realize that this rough lord in Egypt was none other than Joseph, the son whom he loved! He didn't realize that before long he was going to be embracing Joseph, weeping together with him for joy! He didn't know the wonderful things that God had in store for him in the whole renewing of the family ties. And being able to see only up to this point, he cried, "*All things are against me!*" Not so!
- **It is my faith and trust in God that sees me through those dark hours** when I think from the circumstances that everything is going against me! It is my faith in God's promise and faith in the

Word of God that sustains me, that keeps us going, and I know that when I turn the corner, things are going to be different, because God is working out His plan in my life.

- ***All things are against me.***” No, no, no! You don’t know all things! You only know part of the things. You are making judgment from incomplete knowledge. You don’t know the whole truth. Wait until you get all the facts and you’ll see it is quite differently than what you suspect. When all the facts are in, when you do too much complaining, you’re going to have to come back and apologize to God.
- **What Jacob does not realize that one of the greatest things in his life is occurring!** God is behind all of the circumstances that are happening here and there is a day on the other side of this lack of perspective where he’s going to look back and say, this was the greatest series of events that happened in my life.
- **Note here, when and if you are walking obediently as a Christian, nothing is working against you!** God works all things together for good in our lives. There it is. It doesn’t matter if it’s all of Egypt, all of the powers of the world are united collectively against you, God would make all of that work together for your good. That’s how he does it!
- **So tonight, as you look at it, and as I’m just walking quietly and simply, being obedient to the Lord**, the circumstances are just ramping up out of my control. Everything seems to be against me! Don’t believe it! Time will reveal that God is doing something wonderful! It may be very hard at the moment, but something wonderful is happening!
- **Looking back, how many times have I really felt that “all things are against me?” Can I see now, that in every one of those situations, God was really working in my life? And really at that point, I see now that each of those were actually some of the best times in my life?**

Gen 42:37 Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you."

- **Reuben, you are still unstable.** What good would it do to kill two of your grandsons? It is sort of a wild kind of a thing. You just have to say something. That’s Reuben, unstable as water.
- **About twenty years have gone by.** In those twenty years we don’t know much of what was happening to Joseph’s brothers. We know quite a bit about what happened to Joseph. We were following him, but meanwhile back home, all we know is that one story of Judah and Tamar in the thirty-eighth chapter. But we really don’t know what was going on back home. But what we do find out is that the other sons got married, had children, families and all, which was only natural at this point. Reuben, at least, had two sons and he promises them as a surety for Benjamin.

Gen 42:38 But he (Jacob) said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave."

- **No way. He is not going!** Forget it!

Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

Gen 43:1 Now the famine was severe in the land.

Gen 43:2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."

Gen 43:3 But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

Gen 43:4 If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.

Gen 43:5 But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

- **You don’t understand, Dad, what is going on down there!** That guy. “*the man*,” is mean. He is tough. We are not going to go down. We just won’t go unless Benjamin goes with us. That is all there is to it!

Gen 43:6 And Israel (3x in this chapter) said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"

- **Why did you tell him those things?** What is the matter with you?

Gen 43:7 But they said, "The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?' And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

- **Don't give us a bad time.** How could we have known he was going to say that?

Gen 43:8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones.

- **Judah here indicates that they also had children, "also our little ones."** Let me have Benjamin and let us go so we're not going to die of starvation here.

Gen 43:9 I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

- **I will take the personal responsibility for him.** Hold me personally responsible.
- **Judah has changed! He has a great sensitivity** toward his father and what his father is going through and what Benjamin means to him! Here Jacob still is not hiding the fact to the rest of the boys that Benjamin is his favorite, but **that doesn't matter to Judah anymore!** He's not threatened by that at all! His great concern is for the best of the family! He is very compassionate toward what his father is going through. Much has changed in Judah's life!
- He **displays something wonderful here, saying if I do not bring Benjamin back to you, let the blame come on me. Let me bear the blame forever!**

Gen 43:10 For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time."

- **Judah is saying, come on! We have to get going.** Let us not stall around any further. Give him to me. I will be the surety for him; we have waited too long already. We're getting hungry and we have run out of food.

Gen 43:11 And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

- **We might think that old Jacob, still conniving, is still using that scheming process.** "If it's got to be, then do this:" But really, he isn't. In those days for you to approach a high governmental official, it would be an affront if you didn't bring some kind of a gift. So he's not trying to manipulate, but just trying to do what's culturally right.
- **In chapter 42, the reference to his name, it was always "Jacob."** Here in chapter 43, we notice he is always referred to as "Israel" because he is handling it the way that God would have it to be handled by him. He is governed by God or ruled by God, which is what Israel means! In the situation here, he's given the name of Israel. He is not trying to manipulate this thing. He is trusting in God, simply doing the right thing.
- **In my Christian walk, how much of the time am I like "Israel?"—Ruled by God. How often am I like "Jacob?"—Scheming and conniving"**
- **A little balm and a little honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and some almonds.** These were things not found in Egypt to any extent, and these were the things those traders were carrying, interestingly enough, when they were heading to Egypt and the brothers sold Joseph and all.

Gen 43:12 Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight.

Gen 43:13 Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man.

- **Take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks, plus double the money you paid last time the money that we would need to buy all of this food with.** Perhaps it was an oversight and then he said take your brother also, arise and go back to the man and so Jacob approves now. The taking of money to buy more
- **So take, plus the money you brought back.** That's three times the money and take down some raisins, some figs, some honey, some balm, some spices. Maybe *the man's* heart will soften. Take also your brother Benjamin. *Arise, go back to the man!*

Gen 43:14 And may God Almighty (El Shaddai) give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"

- **This circumstance is just running Jacob! But he's right with God! And God's going to work it. His way!**

- Jacob was brought to the point of that full commitment. "Okay, go, and if I am bereaved, I bereaved. I am facing the ultimate worse thing that could happen."
- *If I'm bereaved, I'm bereaved!* I just have to commit it into the hands of God! I can't do anything about it. It's out of my control. There is that commitment where you just rest in the providential care of God!
- **May God Almighty (El Shaddai)! How real is He to me? How close am I to God Almighty? (Gen 17:1) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.**

Gen 43:15 So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph.

Gen 43:16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."

Gen 43:17 Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

- The brothers, when they brought them into Joseph's house, really thought "Oh no! We've had it now! He's going to get us because of the money that was in our sacks. The whole plot I can see it now unraveling. He's taking us into his house and then he is really going to nail us."

Gen 43:18 Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, "It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and seize us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys."

- Man, we have had it. It must be *because of the money*, as we have brought Benjamin back with us.

Gen 43:19 When they drew near to the steward of Joseph's house, they talked with him at the door of the house,

Gen 43:20 and said, "O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;

Gen 43:21 but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand.

Gen 43:22 And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."

- We have brought back double money. *We don't know who put our money in our sacks.* We're totally innocent of stealing. Please understand what's going on here and pass it on to the man on all of this

Gen 43:23 But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them.

Gen 43:24 So the man brought the men into Joseph's house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed.

Gen 43:25 Then they made the present ready for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there.

Gen 43:26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.

- So we have another bowed down again. This thing they're going to bow down a little bit more too, before the whole story is done.

Gen 43:27 Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?"

- Here is the danger that Joseph is wondering about. He wants to find out whether his brothers have changed. But he knows that his father is elderly and of the risk of his father dying in the meantime. *Is he still alive?*

Gen 43:28 And they answered, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.

Gen 43:29 Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?" And he said, "God be gracious to you, my son."

- Joseph wasn't old enough to be his father, but yet he was the younger brother of Joseph, a full brother. About twenty-four years old, Joseph hadn't seen him since he was three years old. That's my brother, my full brother. *God be gracious to you, my son!*
- Now his heart yearned for his brother. He wanted so badly to go over and just hug him, kiss him, his heart yearned!

Gen 43:30 Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.

- *Sought somewhere to weep...and wept there.* At times, many, if not all of us feel that we're crying alone, that God has forgotten us! He is not watching. He is not caring! Our hearts are broken and our tears are flowing. But the Bible tells us something vastly different! That every tear is written down, every tear we shed, every tear will have been recorded. He takes note. **(Psa 56:8,11)** *You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? [11] In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? Lord, You are so faithful. You are so gracious!*

Gen 43:31 *Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, "Serve the bread."*

- He still had to carry out his plan here.

Gen 43:32 *So they set him a place by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians.*

- There were three tables. Joseph at his own table. The other Egyptian guests had a table for themselves, and then his brothers all had their table

Gen 43:33 *And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another.*

- When Joseph set them at the table, he set them according to their age around the table! They looked at each other and thought, "What is going on here?" Do you know what the chances are of setting eleven brothers according to age around the table? 39,943,000! He had about one chance in forty million to set them in the order according to age! That freaked them out as they realized, they thought, "Wow." They evidently, at this point, figured that this guy has some divining knowledge. Joseph led them to believe that he had the capacity of divination as we get into the next chapter. They no doubt believed it, because of the fact that he was able to set them according to age around the table!

Gen 43:34 *Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin's serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.*

- Joseph was likely looking to see if the same kind of jealousy and bitterness that they had towards him was also manifested towards Benjamin. He wanted to see if that was still there or was that gone.
- The purposes of God cannot be fulfilled through them as a nation if there is still a semblance of that old bitterness and jealousy, but obviously it wasn't there! They all just had a good time, feasted together and had a good time!
- Now chapter 44 and 45, you're going to love them as you get further into the story as the plot thickens, and then as the whole thing comes together!

SUMMARY

- **Is there any continuing guilt in my life? How clear am I in what the Bible says about dealing with the sin of guilt? Do I know and understand the meaning of having my heart sprinkled from an evil conscience? (Gen 42:21)** *Then they said to one another, "We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."*
- **Looking back, how many times have I really felt that "all things are against me?" Can I see now, that in every one of those situations, God was really working in my life? And really at that point, I see now that each of those were actually some of the best times in my life? (Gen 42:36)** *And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me: Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin. All these things are against me."*
- and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.

- **In my Christian walk, how much of the time am I like “Israel?”—Ruled by God. How often am I like “Jacob?—Scheming and conniving” (Gen 43:11)** *And their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man—a little balm*
- **May God Almighty (El Shaddai)! How real is He to me? ? How close am I to God Almighty? (Gen 17:1) When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. (Gen 43:14)** *And may God Almighty (El Shaddai) give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!"*
- *(Gen 42:13) And they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and in fact, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more."*
- **Here Joseph learns two of the most important things to him! Number one, his younger brother is still alive!** *They didn't kill him or throw him in a pit, just like they've done to Joseph. The other thing that he learns is that his father is still alive!*
- **AND CAN IT BE?**

CLOSING SONG

AND CAN IT BE? – Charles Wesley – sung by Billy Graham Choir (2:40/2:43)

*And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?*

Refrain:

Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]*

CLOSING PRAYER

NEXT WEEK: Read and study *Genesis Chapters 44, 45, 46!*