




Genesis 42:1-38

When Joseph was brought out of prison and brought before Pharaoh, can you imagine Joseph standing there, making Joseph grand advisor of Egypt, the brothers standing there that had him put in prison, how they must have felt at that moment. Joseph never sought revenge. He didn't have a vengeful nature. He left it to the Lord.

- 1 ¶ **Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another?** This famine had affected the land of Canaan as well as the rest of the world. Jacob looks at his sons, all looking at him.
- 2 **And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die.** They were about to starve. Jacob didn't know why they were all standing around starving. He told him get off their lorries and go to Egypt and get them some food.
- 3 **And Joseph's ten brethren went down to buy grain from Egypt.**
- 4 **But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure harm befall him.** Jacob did not allow Benjamin, the youngest son, to go because he was afraid something would happen to him..
- 5 **And the sons of Israel came to buy among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan.**
- 6 **And Joseph was the governor over the land; he it was that sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves to him with their faces to the earth.** Remember the dream Joseph had, that the brothers would all bow down to him? Here it is, come true.
- 7 ¶ **And Joseph saw his brethren, and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them, and spake roughly with them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food.** Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they don't recognize him.
- 8 **And Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.**
- 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.** Joseph accuses his brothers of being spies, of checking if the famine is so far stretched all the way to Egypt.
- 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, thy servants are no spies.** The brothers say they all have the same father, they are not spies, and they just want to buy food.
- 12 **And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.** Understand that Egypt at that time had been invaded many times.
- 13 **And they said, We 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.** Here the brothers open up with a little honesty. Notice how they cover over their crime of selling Joseph into slavery. They lied and said the youngest (Benjamin) is back at home.
- 14 **And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spoke 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.** They tell them they can't have anything or go anywhere until they bring the youngest brother to him.
- 16 **Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be bound, that your words may be proved, whether there be truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye are spies.** Joseph has a right for what they did to him to give them these particular orders. What you do in secret comes out in public by the power of God.
- 17 **And he put them all together into ward three days.**
- 18 **And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:**

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- 19 if ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in your prison-house; but go ye, carry grain for the famine of your houses:**
- 20 and bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so.** If they don't bring the youngest brother to him, he will kill them. Joseph is holding one brother hostage until they come back.
- 21 ¶ And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.** Joseph knows their language, and the brothers don't know that, so Joseph understands everything they are saying in their native language when they conversed about the situation amongst themselves. Now the brothers begin to think that God is beginning to deal with them and their past crime. They think they are getting their payback.
- 22 And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore also, behold, his blood is required.** Reuben speaks up, saying, you all wouldn't listen to me, now we have to pay the price for the crime.
- 23 And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for there was an interpreter between them.** Joseph is using an interpreter like he can't speak Hebrew, but he knows. He hears that they think God is bringing retribution down on them. Joseph is 30 years old now, and the brothers sold him when he was 17 years old. The Egyptians shaved their whole bodies, so Joseph looks very different now and the brothers don't recognize him.
- 24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and he returned to them, and spake to them, and took Simeon from among them, and bound him before their eyes.** The brothers are breaking Joseph's heart, and he starts crying. He took Simeon and tied him up.
- 25 Then Joseph commanded to fill their vessels with grain, and to restore every man's money into his sack, and to give them provisions for the way: and thus was it done unto them.** Joseph told the people to fill the sacks with food for free. He's being very generous, but he's still setting them up.
- 26 And they laded their asses with their grain, and departed thence.**
- 27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the lodging-place, he espied his money; and, behold, it was in the mouth of his sack.** The brother discovers the money put back in his sack.
- 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 turned trembling one to another, saying, What is this that God hath done unto us?** They think now they will be accused of stealing and add to their problems. Their problems are escalating and they get scared and worried.
- 29 ¶ And they came unto Jacob their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that had befallen them, saying,**
- 30 The man, the lord of the land, spake roughly with us, and took us for spies of the country.**
- 31 And we said unto him, We are true men; we are no spies:** They tell their dad, Isaac, we were accused of being spies and we tried to convince we were not.
- 32 we are twelve brethren, sons of our father; one is not, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.** We explained to him about the other brother.
- 33 And the man, the lord of the land, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye are true men: leave one of your brethren with me, and take *grain* for the famine of your houses, and go your way;** The lord of the land kept one brother hostage, they explain to Isaac.
- 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.** Now we have to bring our youngest brother back and then we can buy food and stay free.
- 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 they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid.** They were
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all afraid and felt someone had set them up. Now they think if they go back they'll be accused of being spies and thieves. These were deadly crimes in Egypt.

- 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.** Jacob tells his sons how disappointed he is in their behavior.
- 37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again.** Reuben says a horrible thing, and he's done some horrible things in his lifetime, but he tells Jacob, kill my own two sons if I don't bring Simeon back.
- 38 And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he only is left: if harm befall him by the way in which ye go, then will ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.** If I let you have Benjamin, and something happens to him on the way to Egypt, I will not be able to live with it. You cannot take Benjamin with you.