

Genesis: God and Man

Go Back to the Man

Genesis 43

Previously:

- Joseph's dreams
- Brothers hated him
- Plot to kill him, saved by Reuben. Sold by Judah.
- Potiphar, Prison, Pharaoh, Feast, Famine
- Years of Plenty, Years of Famine
- Joseph married into Egyptian culture now. Two sons, Ephraim and Manassah
- Brothers go once to get grain, Simeon kept in Egypt. Told to bring Benjamin.
- Their money returned, their hearts failed them.

Psa 105:2-5, 12-24 NKJV - Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; Talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; Let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; Seek His face evermore! Remember His marvelous works which He has done, His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth, ... When they were few in number, Indeed very few, and strangers in it. When they went from one nation to another, From [one] kingdom to another people, He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes, [Saying], "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm." Moreover He called for a famine in the land; He destroyed all the provision of bread. He sent a man before them--Joseph--[who] was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him. The king sent and released him, The ruler of the people let him go free. He made him lord of his house, And ruler of all his possessions, To bind his princes at his pleasure, And teach his elders wisdom. Israel also came into Egypt, And Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham. He increased His people greatly, And made them stronger than their enemies.

43:1-7

Go back

Judah tells what happened

Jacob: “Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still *another* brother?” - why did you tell him something you didn’t have to tell him? Keep things close to the chest...only reveal what you have to.

They responded - everyone all chiming in in their defense of the situation

Joseph knew exactly what to ask. This could have been a clue.

:8-14

Judah takes charge

Arise and go. It had to be done. It was time to be done.

And also our little ones...the feeling of little ones being in danger, in hunger, not wanting your kids to suffer anything

Judah takes responsibility, in the right way. Reuben’s promise of sacrificing his own kids is not brought up. Judah will bear the blame if something goes wrong.

If we had not lingered...

Time is of the essence

Hungry ready to eat...wish we had just gone before to get food

Could have been back by now

Procrastination, avoidance of real responsibility for fear of the consequence

Jacob says to take some of the best as a present

DGC Perhaps Jacob remembered how well it seemed to work when he showered Esau with gifts

The famine affected the grain and livestock,
but they must have had some of these items stored up.

Depression cooking

Would any of these gifts actually be something the second most powerful man on earth would enjoy or eat? No. But perhaps it might show their gratitude.

Pro 21:14 NKJV - A gift in secret pacifies anger, And a bribe behind the back, strong wrath.

Perhaps it was an oversight...even the most powerful can make mistakes

Although usually in power the oversights are in their favor...

Friends finding contractor overbilling...some might call it fraud

Arise, go back to the man

Be going...really it's time to get up and do what you must

Do i really believe what i say? If i do, i must get up and do it

Do I really believe what the Lord tells me? If I do, I must get up and do it.

Sometimes perhaps we say we don't believe it because we just don't want to obey it.

Sometimes perhaps we doubt and struggle not because it's unbelievable, but because the ramifications of obeying it.

Utmost 9.22

Our Lord never takes measures to make me do what He wants. Sometimes I wish God would master and control me to make me do what He wants, but He will not. And at other times I wish He would leave me alone, and He does not.

“You call Me Teacher and Lord...”— but is He? Teacher, Master, and Lord have little place in our vocabulary. We prefer the words Savior, Sanctifier, and Healer. The only word that truly describes the experience of being mastered is love, and we know little about love as God reveals it in His Word. The way we use the word obey is proof of this. If we are consciously aware that we are being mastered, that idea itself is proof that we have no master. If that is our attitude toward Jesus, we are far away from having the relationship He wants with us. He wants us in a relationship where He is so easily our Master and Teacher that we have no conscious awareness of it— a relationship where all we know is that we are His to obey.

Take your brother also...they have Jacob's permission now. Everyone is on board and willing to do what they must to survive and keep their family alive and together.

Take double money

- They will not sacrifice Simeon
- They will take responsibility for perhaps an oversight and bring gifts and money to show they did not take it on purpose
- They will put their own lives on the line if anything happens to their youngest brother...

Despite their hesitation earlier, these seem like changed men.

Mat 21:28-32 NKJV - "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' "He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. "Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I [go], sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did the will of [his] father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. "For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw [it], you did not afterward relent and believe him.

Being obedient to the call is important.

Doing it in a timely manner is important.

Laying your life down to accomplish it is necessary.

But don't let your past hesitation or disobedience stop you from doing it now.

Sure you could have been done with it by now, but all the more reason to get it done now.

Don't wait. Don't delay. Obey.

People's lives may depend on it. Perhaps your very own family's

V14 And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man

Jacob steps up and in effect brings God back into their affairs...besides the brothers before thinking God had brought a curse on them

Praying for God's mercy...he has already given it. He is already ready and has forgiven you. If you would but step up to the plate and take responsibility for your own sin.

Forgiveness and mercy and grace happened 2000 years ago at the cross...even really before the garden when God planned it all out. Because he loves you.

We don't have to beg him for it...just ask. He already has it in his hands, waiting for us to receive it.

:15-25

- Take double money
- Take back the returned money
- Take your brother
- The present of the best they had

They stood before Joseph...wherever the grain was being dispensed

Joseph instructs the steward of his house...Joseph used to be the chief steward of a house

Take these men back and we will have a lunch feast

I don't know that they got to Egypt in the morning but they were there bright and early when the grainery opened up.

Rev 3:20 NKJV - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

It is an intimate act to eat with someone. Especially in their culture. Let alone the ruler bringing in dirty peasants from another land.

Work feast, but we don't sit managers at one table and new employees at another...we have different roles but we're all equal as people.

Slaughter an animal...especially during the famine, this was a big deal.

Thanksgiving turkey dinner.

V18 - so very afraid. They didn't realize it was for a feast or at least they didn't believe it. They thought it was a trial. To be convicted and condemned only.

Maybe this is why people don't come to the Lord or to church, despite their wanting forgiveness? They don't realize that it is a feast!

The living room

V19 they show this by trying to plead with the steward their case

Mat 5:25-26 NKJV - "Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. "Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.

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.

Can you almost hear the grace in his voice?

I had your money...DGC This was not a lie, because he really did have it, and he gave it back. It really was because of God's goodness that they had the money back.

Gave them water to wash their feet

They're preparing themselves now to talk with Joseph. They begin to get out all the items and put together the gift basket for Joseph.

:26-34

They come in from outside...get the gift out of the car
And bow down to the earth.

Again, the dream of 30 or so years earlier is coming true
 And I don't know that Joseph longed for the day for them to bow down to him in a prideful manner...I can't wait for them to listen to me, to obey ME.

But to have something god promised would happen to come true, a blessing, a grace, something not deserved...that is something to weep over and be thankful for. Especially when it means a family being brought back together.

The first thing he asks is about their father, Jacob.

I wonder what Joseph has been thinking and feeling the whole time they're gone. Having simeon as a prisoner in the basement of his own house...thinking about them, longing for his family and the hope of a reunion.

It was overwhelming

As they bow down again He sees his little brother all grown up. He longs for his brother. All of these guys are family, but they're half-brothers...benjamin is his full brother and that of his mother who passed...their is obviously something very special there.

My son...obviously he can't say brother...but I think Joseph felt great responsibility for his family, especially his younger brother.

Our kids and their baby brother

Joseph gets up to go weep. He can't contain himself. His little brother (not so little any more) is enough to crack his facade.

He restrains himself after weeping and says serve the bread.
 Ever be so overcome with emotion that it's hard even to speak?

Funny that Joseph, a former slave, is treated not as a Hebrew when among the Hebrews, but is separated as an Egyptian.

DGC- Joseph did not eat with his brothers because at the time, Egypt was one of the most racially separated societies on earth. They believed that Egyptians came from the gods, and all other peoples came from lesser origins. There was little social mixing with foreigners in the Egypt of Joseph's day.

The Egyptians would not eat with Joseph, much less these strangers from Canaan. Even with all his status and power, Joseph could still not eat with real Egyptians.

i. "It is known from Herodotus that Egyptians so abhorred things foreign, that priests, at least, ate and drank nothing that was imported, nor would they use utensils for eating that had been used by Greeks." (Leupold)

ii. Herein is the wisdom of God. Before Genesis is finished, God brought the entire family of Jacob into Egypt, where they were isolated from the surrounding people for some 400 years. In that time, they multiplied greatly, increasing to the millions. If God had allowed them to remain in Canaan they would have simply assimilated into the corrupt and godless peoples of Canaan. The rape of Dinah and its aftermath (Genesis 34) and the sin of Judah's sons and Judah with Tamar (Genesis 38) revealed this danger.

iii. God not only had to take the family of Israel out of the corrupt environment of Canaan, but He had to put them among a racially separated people who would not often intermarry or mingle with them. God simply sent Joseph on ahead to make the arrangements.

Joseph sets them in birth order...and then men are astonished.

Ever try and guess people's ages? Let alone 11 adult brothers?

Friends in NY, the middle brother always assumed to be the older brother and the older brother the middle for some reason.

Family of my friend who passed, all tall brothers. No way I'd guess who is who. Let alone 11 of them accurately.

Astonished - dumbfounded

Again, another clue. This man was not a magician (the returned money, knowing what questions to ask, setting them in order)

But he was leaving clues...dropping hints. On purpose I'm sure. Wanting to be found out. Just like I believe God is and does.

Rom 1:20 NKJV - For since the creation of the world His invisible [attributes] are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, [even] His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

God wants to be known by us. He won't force us to recognize him, a King, as our brother whom we betrayed and killed...but he wants us to see that he loves us and cares for us. But our recognition of him has to come out of love, not out of demanded servitude. Otherwise it wouldn't be a real reunion.

Benjamin had a portion 5x as big as theirs...

Getting sample meal before wedding

Joseph showing his brother favor.

They drank and were "merry" with him...they actually forgot all their worries and cares for a minute and had a big party and seemingly even got drunk. 12 brothers back together, it's not so surprising.

This was a good thing. In the midst of famine. In the aftermath of all those years of guilt and shame.

In the years of wandering and not having a permanent home...among the Canaanites... All those years of God's promise to make Abraham a nation...they were culminating now.

About to overflow their cup in the next few chapters as God's plan is coming together in a most beautiful way...despite their sin. Despite the pain and through a family that had been anything but righteous.

"If it's not beautiful, God's not done yet" Jon Courson

Where are you?

Do you feel like you can't see how it's all going to work out?

Are you stuck in the famine still...you had some provision but it's run out again. You're stuck again. And this time it's worse. This time it could cost you far more...and perhaps not of your own doing.

Maybe you're bowed down before something in life, not realizing it's God's provision, hand of grace held out to you already.

Arise, and go toward him. Let his plans be worked out for you, on your behalf.

Feast with Him.

Eph 5:17-21 NKJV - Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord [is]. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.