

Series "In The Beginning...God"
"The Jealousy Test"
Genesis 43:1-34
Study-73

**God's Discipline Upon Jacob For His Favoritism of Benjamin
(Favoritism Of Joseph Resulted In Jealousy With His Brothers)**

Joseph Tests His Brothers' For Jealousy Through The Blessing of Benjamin:

Genesis 42:1-44:34 The Mystery Phaise:

Joseph, 2nd in Egypt, was not recognized by his brothers.

Thought Of Our Passage: "Taking Responsibility For Our Actions, Restitution When Liable, And Rejoicing In Our Provisions Without Being Jealous."

- 1. Verses 1-15 Being Responsible:**
- 2. Verses 16-25 Making Restitution:**
- 3. Verses 26-34 Rejoice In Provisions:**

1. Verses 1-15 Being Responsible:

Genesis 43:1 Now the famine was severe in the land. Now,

Context - God is using a famine to bring Israel to Egypt. God is using the famine to soften Jacob! Several months, possibly even a year, have passed.
(Famine is seven years long)

Note that the famine affected God's people.

Genesis 43:2

So it came about when they had finished eating the grain which they had brought from Egypt

Jacob is unknowingly stalling a reunion with his son Joseph.

Genesis 43:3 Judah spoke to him,

Judah will become the spokesman,

Genesis 43:8-10; 44:14-34; 46:28;

Israel's blessing **Genesis 49:8-12**

Rueben committed incest with Jacob's concubine

Genesis 35:22, Simeon and Levi were disqualified through the genocide of the males at Shechem **Genesis 34**

'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'

Genesis 43:4

'You will not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

Notice how the pressure is on this family.

Joseph is gone, **Simeon** is being detained, they aren't to return without **Benjamin**, and the **food has run out.**

Genesis 43:6 Then Israel said,

Note, not **Jacob** but **Israel**. **Jacob** - represents "the flesh"

Israel – "Governed by God"

"Why did you treat me so badly Self-Pity

by telling the man whether you still had another brother?"

Why did you have to tell him the truth about your brother?

That you had another brother?

Genesis 43:7

Could we possibly know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down'?"

That blaming someone for unforeseen events is not going to fix anything!

Genesis 43:8 that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.

Counsel dad, If we don't go, we are all going to die.

Genesis 43:9

"I myself will be surety for him; you may hold me responsible for him.

It had been Judah's idea to sell Joseph, and now he is willing to take responsibility for his brother. **Genesis 27:26-27**

Genesis 43:10

We are wasting time. Indecision.

Genesis 43:11 things the Ishmaelites were bringing down to Egypt. **Genesis 37:25**

Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this:

Israel/Jacob finally is rational! He can't fight circumstances.

It's OK if it has to be. (He has been wrong!)

Notice the three Steps That Israel/Jacob Takes!

1. Israel Does The Right Thing: (Indecision Becomes A Decision)

"If it must be so, then do this: We will stop resisting the circumstances.

Genesis 43:12 "Take double the money in your hand,

Integrity is extremely important.

Genesis 43:13 2. Israel Surrenders To God His Favorite Son:

"Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man

Genesis 43:14 3. Israel Prays And Places His Eyes Back On God: (God's Great Mercy) and may God Almighty

(El Shaddai, God in Genesis is revealed, God of blessings and promises)

grant you compassion in the sight of the man,

2 Timothy 1:12

so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin.

Jacob wrestled with the surrender of his sons.
Genesis 42:36 all these things are against me."
A change

Reconciled To God's Will:
And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

Need to admit that we are wrong: Surrender to God
Need to get our eyes back on God

Genesis 43:15 God does not give up on us. Praise Him!

2. Verses 16-25 Making Restitution:

Genesis 43:16-17 Joseph yet again wants to bless the brothers.

Genesis 43:18
Now the men were afraid, because they were brought to Joseph's house;
The conscience often reacts this way.

When there is sin in our lives God will activate the conscience in our life and it will show up in fear and paranoia.

Genesis 43:19-22

When there is a possibility that we have cheated someone, or a person has cheated themselves, we should do the right thing by offering to make it right.

Genesis 43:23 Words Of Peace:
He said, "Be at ease, "*Shalom, be at peace, prosperity, safety*"
do not be afraid. Joseph's steward was a Hebrew or knew Hebrew.
The Lord speaking through the steward, in Hebrew, be at peace!

God's Great Provision:
Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; God – Elohim – "*the God of gods, The King, the creator of all things*"
(Brothers Observe Belief In God)

Kindness He Brought Their brother Simeon Out:
Then he brought Simeon out to them. (Unity)

Genesis 43:24 Brought Water To Them: gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys fodder. Which was a sign of courtesy hospitality and friendship.

Genesis 43:25 Wish we had the conversations

3. Verses 26-34 Rejoice In Provisions:

Genesis 43:26 and bowed to the ground before him.

How faithful is God and His Word. Fulfillment of Joseph's dream, **Genesis 37:7-8**

Genesis 43:27-28 Joseph Spoke Kindness To Them:

Joseph's blessings **three times** (Shalom)

Genesis 43:29 "May God be gracious to you, my son."

Joseph's only brother Benjamin! **God's Grace:**

Genesis 43:30 he sought a place to weep;

**This is the heart of God! Joseph's attitude could have been,
"Life is good to me down in Egypt!"**

Genesis 43:31 said, "Serve the meal."

Joseph Served Them A Meal:

"Serve the meal." Genesis 37:24-25

Joseph was thrown into a pit with no water or food as the brothers ate together.

Genesis 43:32 for that is loathsome to the Egyptians.

Genesis 43:33 the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth, 40 million to 1 odd!

Genesis 43:34 from his own table;

Brothers are all enjoying the blessings of God.

Beautiful Picture of "Common Grace"

Which means that every person, including sinners, is receiving the favor of God.

Matthew 5:45; Romans 2:4

Benjamin's Favoritism:

but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs.

So they feasted and drank freely with him.

Brothers Displayed No Jealousy Towards Benjamin.

Application:

1. Taking Responsibility For Our Actions:

God Used The Circumstances Of Jacob's Life To Draw Him To Himself.

2. Restitution When Liable: Whither A Person Gives Too Much, Or We Take Too Much, We Should Do The Right Thing By Offering To Make It Right.

3. Rejoicing In Our Provisions: Without Becoming Jealous. The Goodness Of The Lord Leads To Repentance.