

Genesis 42

Genesis 42.1-7

V1 – Attitude of Jacob? A little irritated with his sons

V2 – How severe was the famine? Jacob and family were at the point of death – pretty severe
-Where had he heard that there was grain? In Egypt

V3 – How many sons were sent? Ten

V4 – Why did Jacob not send Benjamin? Only other son of Rachel (his favorite wife)
-He remembered the disappearance of Joseph (what he thought was a violent death)
-Jacob was still showing favoritism – didn't care much what happened to the other sons

V5 – Who was Israel? The other name for Jacob
-Ten sons left for Egypt

V6 – Who did the ten brothers have to deal with? Joseph
-What did they do? Bowed down to him (the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams)
-What were those two dreams (*Genesis 37.7, 9*)? Other sheaves of grain bowed down to him, and the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him also
-God was able to see into the future

V7 – Why did the ten brothers not recognize Joseph? People change from 17 to 30 (look at old pictures of your parents), and he disguised himself somewhat
-And they were not expecting to meet Joseph under these circumstances
-Why speak to them harshly? To further disguise himself

Genesis 42.8-17

V8 – They did not recognize Joseph

V9 – What did Joseph accuse them of? Being spies sent to check out the undefended border of Egypt
-What was that border like? Sinai desert
-The charge “spies” would have been the most logical explanation for these ten “foreigners”

V10 – How did they reply to this charge? They said that they were not spies

V11 – Were they honest men? Not completely – they had lied to Jacob about Joseph

V12 – Joseph restates the charge

V13 – They protested again
-What did they mention in *v 13*? A younger brother

-What did they say about Joseph? “One is no more”

-Lying is really difficult – here, the ten brothers were getting caught in their big lie

V 14 – Joseph again states his charge and continues to get more information out of them

V 15 – **Under what condition will Joseph accept their statement that they are not spies?** They must bring their youngest brother to see Joseph

V 16 – **Conditions?** Only one brother could leave to get youngest brother

V 17 – Other brothers were put in prison

Genesis 42.18-24

V 18 – Joseph’s goal seems to be to find out his brother’s attitude toward Benjamin (his full brother)
-Joseph seems to have changed his tactics a little here

V 19-20 – **What is his new plan?** One brother was to be kept in Egypt – Benjamin to be brought to Egypt

V 21 – **What are they thinking about?** How they had mistreated their little brother Joseph so many years back

-**Note:** The guilt was still with them – they could still remember how Joseph begged them, etc.

-The guilt feelings from a sin often are worse than the physical consequences

V 22 – **Who was it that had wanted to save Joseph?** Reuben – “I told you so...” – now the consequences for their sin

V 23 – **What was Joseph doing?** Listening – he had given the illusion of not understanding their language

-**How?** By using an interpreter

V 24 – **Why did Joseph cry?** Maybe in seeing that they were sorry for their actions

-**What did Joseph have done?** Had Simeon tied up as a hostage

Genesis 42.25-28

V 25 – **What did Joseph have done secretly?** Had their bags filled with grain and money

V 26 – The brothers left

V 27 – **Why did one of them open a sack of grain?** To get food for the donkeys

-**What did he find in the sack?** The money they were supposed to have paid for the grain

V 28 – **What was their reaction?** Sorrow

-Why? They would be accused of stealing the money

Genesis 42.29-34

V 29 – They arrived back in Canaan and told Jacob all that had happened

V 30 – **How did they describe the ruler of Egypt (Joseph)?** Lord of the land who spoke harshly to them

V 31– Their reply to Joseph

V 32 – “We are honest men”

V 33 – The “deal” Joseph had made

V 34 – They have to bring Benjamin to Egypt

Genesis 42.35-38

V 35– **What else did the brothers discover when they got back to Jacob?** All of the sacks of grain had money in them

V 36 –**How did Jacob complain?** Joseph is dead, Simeon is a hostage, and you want to take Benjamin away (Jacob was not in a good mood)

V 37 – **What offer did Reuben make to Jacob?** You can kill my two sons if we don’t bring Benjamin back alive
-A serious offer?

V 38 – **What was Jacob’s decision?** Benjamin would not go to Egypt - it would “kill” Jacob if anything happened to Benjamin

Lessons:

- God works things out in his own ways
- Parents still show favoritism

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