

Genesis 43

Genesis 43.1-10

V1 – What was Jacob’s decision at the end of *Chapter 42*? They would not return to Egypt for more grain

-What might cause them to change their minds? If they were about to starve to death

V2– The grain they brought back eventually was used up

-What did Jacob ask? For them to go back and get more grain from Egypt

V3 – What did Judah say? They had better not go back without Benjamin

V4– The deal made according to Judah? We will go if you will let us take Benjamin

V5 – Without Benjamin, they would not go – they had been solemnly warned by Joseph

V6– What did Jacob complain about? “Why did they have to tell him about Benjamin?”

V7– How did the brothers answer Jacob? "How were we supposed to know what he was going to say? He had just asked a lot of strange questions"

V8 – If they don’t send Benjamin, what will happen? They will all starve to death

V9 – What did Judah offer? To be personally responsible for Benjamin and guarantee he would return

V10 – Judah’s comment? We have wasted too much time

Genesis 43.11-15

V11 – What did Jacob suggest? That they take some presents for the Egyptian ruler – spices and rare foods from the land of Canaan

V12 – What else were they to take? Double the amount of money for more grain and the money that had been placed in their sacks

-“Maybe it was a mistake”

V13 – Was Jacob going to allow Benjamin to go? Yes

V14 – What would Jacob be praying for? That God would give compassion to the Egyptian and allow Simeon and Benjamin to return home

V15 – They got everything together and left for Egypt

Genesis 43.16-25

V 16 – Joseph’s attitude toward his brothers? A little kinder

-What did he order? Animal killed, meal prepared

V 17 – Where were the brothers taken? To Joseph’s house

-This would have been very unusual

V 18 – Why did the brothers think that Joseph had invited them to his house? Still mad about the money in the sacks – planned to kill them at his house

V 19 – Who did the brothers speak to? To the steward of Joseph’s house (valet, caretaker, waiter, servant, etc.)

V 20 – They started telling their story

-Why would they tell their story to the steward? Maybe he could break the news to Joseph in kinder terms than they could

V 21 – The story of finding the money in their sacks

V 22 – They did not know who put the money in their sacks

V 23 – The reaction of the steward? "Calm down, I put the money in your sacks"

-They had just proven that they were honest men
-Simeon was brought out

V 24 – What courtesies were shown them? Their feet were washed, and the donkeys were fed

V 25 – What presents were they going to give Joseph? The spices, etc., from Canaan

Genesis 43.26-34

V 26 – The brothers presented the gift to Joseph

V 27 – What did Joseph ask? How their father was doing (still alive, etc.?)

V 28 – Answer? Our father is doing well

-They bowed down to Joseph (the third time)

V 29 – Who did Joseph see? His brother Benjamin

-Message to Benjamin? May God be gracious to you...

V 30 – Why did Joseph start crying? Tears of joy (at least 13 years – more like 20 - since he had seen him)

-Joseph left the room crying

V 31 – He got himself under control, and the meal started

V 32 – Three groups of people eating – Egyptians and Semitic (Hebrews) and Joseph (by himself)

-**An example of racial prejudice?** Egyptians did not want to eat with Hebrews

-Racial prejudice is not just a matter of black and white problems

V 33 – **How were the brothers seated?** In order of birth

-It looked as if Joseph had them seated this way on purpose

-They were “astonished” at this

V 34 – **What else was unusual about the meal?** Joseph gave Benjamin five times what others got to eat

Lesson:

-The brothers were honest about the money – when a person is dishonest, he eventually gets caught (tripped up)

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