

## Trickery in Egypt

### Genesis 42 – 43

#### *Genesis 42:1-5*

- 4 Benjamin- probably about 22 years old at this point.  
“feared that harm might happen to him”- he is the precious, final son of Rachel  
5 “sons of Israel”- even though he goes by Jacob in verse 1, this is still the family of The Promise

#### *Genesis 42:6-17*

- 6 “bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground”- fulfilling the dream of 37:7  
7 “Joseph recognized them”- even though it has been 20+ years, their dress and appearance was similar  
8 “they did not recognize him”- What are some of the reasons they might not recognize him?  
9 “nakedness of the land”- an idiom for the weak spots in their national defense  
11 “we are honest men”- Joseph knows that is not true!  
13 “one is no more”- Oh the irony! They did not know what happened after selling him to Ishmaelites  
15 “tested”- regarding their honesty and character  
17 “in custody”- a small taste of what he had endured for all these years

#### *Genesis 42:18-34*

- 18 “I fear God”- How much has Joseph REALLY assimilated?  
20 “and bring your youngest brother to me”- Joseph has a plan brewing to test their remorse  
21 Even 20+ years after selling Joseph, the sin is still on their minds  
22 “And Reuben answered them”- oh Reuben, the bumbling buffoon of the story  
“reckoning for his blood”- perhaps they too have come to believe he is dead  
24 “turned away and wept”- their remorse is moving  
Simeon- the oldest of the brothers present when he was sold (Reuben was planning to save him)  
28 “What is it that God has done to us?”- *Luther- But they ascribe this to God, the Judge... And this came from the terror and anguish of conscience which, with great grief and anguish of heart, are wont to follow sin.*

#### *Genesis 42:35-38*

- 36 “You have bereaved me of my children”- how so?  
37 “Then Reuben said”- Reuben is always trying to do what’s right... but is just a bit far from right  
“kill my two sons if I do not bring him back”- a very sad attempt at assurance  
38 “Sheol”- in this instance, it simply means the grave or death, elsewhere can be the underworld

#### *Genesis 43:1-10*

- 3 “but Judah said”- one of the four main sons in this *Toledoth*  
6 “Israel said”- now going by his Special Name of the Promise  
8 “Judah said to Israel”- this introduces an important part of the narrative!  
“send the boy”- even though Benjamin is over 20 years old  
9 “I will be a pledge of his safety”- how does this differ from Reuben’s offering in 42:37?  
“let me bear the blame forever”- now THAT is promise worthy of giving some assurance

#### *Genesis 43:11-15*

- 11 Israel agrees with Judah's offer and gives instructions to his sons to appease the governor  
 12 Taking the money for the previous and current purchases would establish their integrity  
 14 "May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man"- Israel finally calls upon the God who promised to be with him wherever he goes (28:15)  
 "if I am bereaved...I am bereaved"- he will patiently commit it to God

*Genesis 43:16-25*

- 18 "the men were afraid"- when guilty, even a kind gesture can cause fear and angst  
 23 "Peace to you"- and also with you, thanks be to God... oops!  
 25 "they prepared the present"- from verse 11

*Genesis 43:26-34*

- 29 Joseph would not recognize Benjamin who was little more than an infant when he had been sold  
 32 Ancient sources record similar instances of Egyptian aversion to eating with foreigners  
 33 The brothers had no idea how the servant or Joseph could know their birth order  
 34 "Benjamin's portion was five times as much"- Joseph's test: how will they react to favoritism?

**Psalm 23**

N: <sup>1</sup>YHWH is my shepherd; I shall not want.

S: <sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green pastures.

N: He leads me beside still waters.

S: <sup>3</sup>He restores my soul.

N: He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

S: <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,

N: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

S: <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

N: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

S: <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

N: and I shall dwell in the house of YHWH forever.

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit**

**As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever. Amen**

