

“There Comes a Reckoning”

Genesis 42:1-38

JOSEPH IN SUMMARY

- 1. Joseph was the favored son of Jacob. Gen. 37:3**
- 2. His brothers envied and hated Joseph for his favored status and for his dreams. Gen. 37:5-11**
- 3. Joseph’s brothers sold him as a slave and he was taken down to Egypt. Gen. 37:25-28**
- 4. But God’s hand was on Joseph and he continually rose to positions of prominence.**
 - In Potiphar’s house (Gen. 39) → in the prison (Gen. 40) → in Pharaoh’s court (Gen. 41)
- 5. The Joseph story covers 14 chapters in Genesis.**
 - Through the Joseph narratives, God is telling the story (again) of human sin and redemption.
 - In Joseph we see the story of Christ (our Savior suffering unjustly and then reigning).
 - In Joseph we see a man NOT take vengeance on his brothers—who certainly deserved punishment.
 - In Joseph we see God’s work in the lives of his brothers who sinned against him.

HOW JOSEPH MET HIS BROTHERS AGAIN

- 1. The famine was severe in “all the earth”—including Joseph’s homeland of Canaan. v.1-4**
 - Joseph’s father Jacob heard about grain for sale in Egypt and sent his sons to buy food there. **v.1-3**
 - But Jacob did not send Benjamin (Joe’s full brother from his favorite wife Rachel). **v.4**
 - The brothers unwittingly begin to fulfill Joseph’s dreams (ch. 37) as they head to Egypt to buy grain.
- 2. Joseph’s brothers arrived in Egypt to buy grain. v.5-17**
 - They came before Joseph—but didn’t recognize him. **v.5-8**
 - And Joseph remembered the dreams... **v.9a**; Ref. 37:5-11
 - He accused them of being spies and coming to Egypt with ill motives. **v.9b-14**
 - Joseph “tested” them with a plan to get Benjamin to Egypt. **v.15-17**
- 3. Their 20-year cover up began to unravel. v.18-28**
 - Joseph insisted on seeing his brother Benjamin. **v.18-20**
 - His brothers have a revealing conversation in front of him in Hebrew. **v.21-23**
-Truth revealed: v.21: In truth we are guilty. Ref. Numbers 32:23
 - Joseph turned away from them and wept. **v.24**
 - Joseph ordered their bags filled with grain and secretly returned their money. **v.25-28**
- 4. The brothers return to Canaan with the food—and the money! v.29-38**
 - They recounted to Jacob what happened (but left out some important things). **v.29-34**
 - They discovered the money was returned to all of them. **v.35**
 - Jacob refused to let Benjamin go down to Egypt. **v.36**
 - Reuben’s cowardly offer. **v.37**
 - Jacob and his sons stay in a holding pattern—until the food ran out again (Chapter 43). **v.38**

THE AWAKENING OF CONSCIENCE

- 1. Joseph’s brothers were given the opportunity to acknowledge the truth and to truly change.**
 - They were not truly honest men. **v.11**
 - Note the interplay of the phrases “honest men” and “spies” throughout the text. **v.11, 13, 18, 21, 22, 28**
 - Through Joseph’s wisdom & restraint, God was changing them from “honest men” to truly honest men.

→ Reminded of their sin → Denying, minimizing their sin → New awareness of their sin → Conviction of their sin

 - Joseph was testing his brothers with the realization of their guilt before God.
- 2. How do people truly change?**
 - FULL SURRENDER to the Lord. Being willing to give up our own desires for what He wants for us.
 - ASK for God to change you. **Psalm 139:23-24**
 - REGULAR TIME IN GOD’S WORD to know what he wants. “Show me your ways” – Psalm 25.
 - DAILY OFFERING YOURSELF TO GOD. **Romans 6:12-14**
 - MAKE A TANGIBLE, SPECIFIC CHANGE & tell someone about it.