

Joseph's Brothers Return With Benjamin

Gn 43¹ Now the famine was severe in the land. ² And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, “Go back, buy us a little food.”
³ But Judah spoke to him, saying, “The man solemnly warned us, saying, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’”
⁴ If you send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food.
⁵ But if you will not send him, we will not go down; for the man said to us, ‘You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.’”
⁶ And Israel said, “Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?” ⁷ But they said, “The man asked us pointedly about ourselves and our family, saying, ‘Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?’ And we told him according to these words. Could we possibly have known that he would say, ‘Bring your brother down?’” ⁸ Then Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹ I myself will be surety for him; from my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. ¹⁰ For if we had not lingered, surely by now we would have returned this second time.” ¹¹ And their father Israel said to them, “If it must be so, then do this: Take some of the best fruits of the land in your vessels and carry down a present for the man — a little balm and a little honey, spices and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. ¹² Take double money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight. ¹³ Take your brother also, and arise, go back to the man. ¹⁴ And may God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may release your other brother and Benjamin. If I am bereaved, I am bereaved!”

¹⁵ So the men took that present and Benjamin, and they took double money in their hand, and arose and went down to Egypt; and they stood before Joseph. ¹⁶ When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, “Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon.” ¹⁷ Then the man did as Joseph ordered, and the man brought the men into Joseph’s house.

¹⁸ Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph’s house; and they said, “It is because of the money, which was returned in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may make a case against us and seize us, to take us as slaves with our donkeys.” ¹⁹ When they drew near to the steward of Joseph’s house, they talked with him at the door of the house,
²⁰ and said, “O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;
²¹ but it happened, when we came to the encampment, that we opened our sacks, and there, each man’s money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight; so we have brought it back in our hand. ²² And we have brought down other money in our hands to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks.”
²³ But he said, “Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

²⁴ So the man brought the men into Joseph’s house and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their donkeys feed. ²⁵ Then they made the present ready for Joseph’s coming at noon, for they heard that they would eat bread there. ²⁶ And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their

hand into the house, and bowed down before him to the earth.
²⁷ Then he asked them about their well-being, and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” ²⁸ And they answered, “Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive.” And they bowed their heads down and prostrated themselves.
²⁹ Then he lifted his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your younger brother of whom you spoke to me?” And he said, “God be gracious to you, my son.” ³⁰ Now his heart yearned for his brother; so Joseph made haste and sought somewhere to weep. And he went into his chamber and wept there.
³¹ Then he washed his face and came out; and he restrained himself, and said, “Serve the bread.” ³² So they set him a place by himself, and them by them-selves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves; because the Egyptians could not eat food with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. ³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth; and the men looked in astonishment at one another. ³⁴ Then he took servings to them from before him, but Benjamin’s serving was five times as much as any of theirs. So they drank and were merry with him.

► Last time we saw what a vivid picture of _____
Joseph is, for God has exalted him out of his sufferings to the right hand of Pharaoh, where he exercises power over all Egypt and even the surrounding nations, for the famine is severe, and Joseph is the one with the _____ of life. But it results in the strange situation where the Egyptians have _____ Joseph and the truth God revealed thru him, yet his own brothers have _____ him and the truth. But God is not done – he is going to bring the brothers to repentance and faith, and he is going to use _____ to do it. Joseph started this process last time by giving his brothers a _____ of what they put him thru, in order to awaken their consciences and invoke empathy. The plan begins to work, yet the brothers remain imprisoned by _____, and Jacob by _____.

Ps 37¹ Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity ... ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good ...
⁷ Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. ⁸ ... Do not fret — it only causes harm.
⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth ... ¹¹ [T]he meek shall inherit the earth”

Mt 5⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”

► Two brothers appeal to Jacob to let them take Benjamin. _____'s appeal is bizarre and ineffectual, for he shifts the consequences of failure to his sons (42.37-38). _____'s appeal is effective, for it is well reasoned, and he places the consequences of failure upon himself (43.3-5, 8-10). Israel means "God's _____" (32.28), and for the first time in a long time we see the old wrestler emerge, for he faces _____, he strategizes _____, and he seeks _____'s blessing (43.11-14). We also see _____ turning in the right direction so that the leadership ability God has given him begins to be used for good, not evil.

► When Joseph sees Benjamin with his brothers, he has everyone brought to his house for a _____ (16-17). But the brothers are afraid it's a _____ (19-22). To not be _____ with God is to be _____ on everything, for you can't _____ anything rightly. But there is no _____ from God, for he knows all and rules all. So Joseph seats all 11 brothers in their _____ order, which astonishes them. And he gives them more food than they can eat, but Benjamin gets _____ times as much. Once again there is a younger brother, a son of Rachel, who receives _____ blessing. Are they going to _____ him or _____ him into slavery?

► Joseph is forcing them to choose between two ways of living: (1) Continuing to live the way they have, where each one's central _____ is himself and his chief desire is _____ himself; Where more for others means _____ for them; Where each is constantly comparing himself to others and either feeling good about himself and looking _____ on another or feeling bad about himself and looking on the other with anger and _____. (2) Begin living like Joseph, whose central focus is not himself but _____, and whose chief desire is serving _____ while seeking his blessing; Who understands that God has infinite

blessings to _____; Who does not _____ himself to others, nor oscillate between arrogance and envy; Who accepts blessings and hardships because he knows they are tailor made by God to _____ him up to share in his character, work, joy, and glory.

Rom 8 ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together ... ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Heb 12 ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ... He [chastens us] for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

► These are the two choices for _____ as well. And the only way to keep your heart from _____ up with anger and envy is to _____ it up with love and zeal for God.

Gen 37 ¹¹ [Joseph's] brothers envied [*qanā*] him ... 19 Then they said ..., ²⁰ "Come therefore, let us now kill him."

Zech 8 2 "I am zealous [*qanā*] for Zion with great zeal [*qanā*]."

James 3 ¹⁶ [W]here envy [*zelos*] and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there ... 4 ² You ... covet [*zelos*] and cannot obtain. You fight and war

Jn 2 ¹⁷ "Zeal [*zelos*] for Your house has eaten Me up."

Rev 3 ¹⁵ "[Y]ou are neither cold nor hot [*zestos*] ... ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, ... I will vomit you out of My mouth ... ¹⁹ [T]herefore be zealous [*zelos*] and repent.