

Bible Study Genesis 43

43 And the famine was sore in the land.¹

² And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the corn which they had brought out of Egypt, their father said unto them, Go again, buy us a little food.

³ And Judah spake unto him², saying, The man did solemnly protest unto us, saying, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

⁴ If thou wilt send our brother with us, we will go down and buy thee food:

⁵ But if thou wilt not send him, we will not go down: for the man said unto us, Ye shall not see my face, except your brother be with you.

⁶ And Israel said, Wherefore dealt ye so ill with me, as to tell the man whether ye had yet a brother?

⁷ And they said, The man asked us straitly of our state, and of our kindred, saying, **Is your father yet alive? have ye another brother?**³ and we told him according to the tenor of these words: could we certainly know that he would say, Bring your brother down?

⁸ And Judah said unto Israel his father, **Send the lad with me,** and we will arise and go; **that we may live, and not die**⁴, both we, and thou, and also our little ones.

⁹ I will be surety for him; of my hand shalt thou require him: if I bring him not unto thee, and set him before thee, then let me bear the blame for ever:

¹⁰ **For except we had lingered**⁵, surely now we had returned this second time.

¹¹ And their father Israel said unto them, If it must be so now, do this; take of the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a

¹ The famine continues. The food they got from Joseph has now run out.

² Judah now takes the lead in the conversation with Israel.

³ Joseph asks these questions to find out the condition of his father and his brother Benjamin. However his brothers were still not aware of who he was.

⁴ The options for food have dwindled. They have fruit but no grain.

⁵ Judah says if his father had not delayed in sending them back with Benjamin, they would have the food already.

present, a little balm, and a little honey, spices, and myrrh, nuts, and almonds:⁶

¹² And take double money in your hand; and the money that was brought again in the mouth of your sacks, carry it again in your hand; peradventure it was an oversight:⁷

¹³ Take also your brother, and arise, go again unto the man:

¹⁴ And God Almighty give you mercy before the man,⁸ that he may send away your other brother, and Benjamin. If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.

¹⁵ And the men took that present, and they took double money in their hand and Benjamin; and rose up, and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

¹⁶ And when Joseph saw Benjamin with them⁹, he said to the ruler of his house, Bring these men home, and slay, and make ready; for these men shall dine with me at noon.

¹⁷ And the man did as Joseph bade; and the man brought the men into Joseph's house.

¹⁸ And the men were afraid, because they were brought into Joseph's house; and they said, Because of the money that was returned in our sacks at the first time are we brought in; that he may seek occasion against us, and fall upon us, and take us for bondmen, and our asses.

¹⁹ And they came near to the steward of Joseph's house, and they communed with him at the door of the house,¹⁰

²⁰ And said, O sir, we came indeed down at the first time to buy food:

⁶ Israel wants to placate Joseph to keep him from dealing harshly with his sons. So he sends gifts with them.

⁷ Israel tells them to carry double money just in case there was a problem, and perhaps they can make up for what was a mistake.

⁸ Israel prays that God would soften Joseph's heart so he would deal fondly with his sons.

⁹ It has been over 20 years since Joseph has seen his brother. It is only a matter of time until the emotions of seeing him will overcome Joseph. Joseph tells his servant to prepare lunch for him and his brothers.

¹⁰ Joseph's brothers are afraid of what will happen to them so they try to plead their case with the steward of Joseph's house.

²¹ And it came to pass, when we came to the inn, that we opened our sacks, and, behold, every man's money was in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight: and we have brought it again in our hand.

²² And other money have we brought down in our hands to buy food: **we cannot tell who put our money in our sacks.**¹¹

²³ And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: **your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money**¹². And he brought Simeon out unto them.

²⁴ And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

²⁵ And they made ready the present against Joseph came at noon: for they heard that they should eat bread there.

²⁶ And when Joseph came home, **they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house, and bowed themselves to him to the earth.**¹³

²⁷ And he asked them of their welfare, and said, Is your father well, the old man of whom ye spake? Is he yet alive?

²⁸ And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. **And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.**

²⁹ And he lifted up his eyes, and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, Is this your younger brother, of whom ye spake unto me? And he said, God be gracious unto thee, my son.

³⁰ And Joseph made haste; for his bowels did yearn upon his brother: and he sought where to weep; **and he entered into his chamber, and wept there.**¹⁴

³¹ And he washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread.

³² And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the

¹¹ The brothers claim to not know how the money was returned to them after they paid.

¹² The guard said God must have blessed you, because I had your money. We don't have a problem.

¹³ Now all of Joseph's brothers have bowed to him as in his dream.

¹⁴ Joseph's charade is about to be over. He cannot contain his emotions when he sees his brother again so he retreats to weep.

Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews;¹⁵ for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

³³ And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright, and the youngest according to his youth: and the men marvelled one at another.¹⁶

³⁴ And he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin's mess was five times so much as any of their's¹⁷. And they drank, and were merry with him.

¹⁵ The Egyptians would not eat with Hebrews, as they considered them beneath them.

¹⁶ Joseph sits his brothers down in order of birth. His brothers marvel at the fact that Joseph knows their birth order.

¹⁷ Benjamin gets five times as much food as his brothers. Joseph is obviously showing favoritism to Benjamin to see if his brothers still have jealousy about him.