

Truly Guilty

Genesis 41:53 And the **seven years of plenteousness**, that was in the land of Egypt, were **ended**. 54 And the **seven years of dearth** began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but **in all the land of Egypt there was bread**. 55 And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, **Go unto Joseph**; what he saith to you, do. 56 And the famine was **over all the face of the earth**: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt. 57 And **all countries came** into Egypt to Joseph for to buy *corn*; because that the famine was *so* sore in all lands. 42:1 Now when **Jacob saw** that there was corn in Egypt, Jacob said unto his sons, Why do ye look one upon another? 2 And he said, Behold, I have heard that there is **corn in Egypt**: get you down thither, and buy for us from thence; that we may live, and not die. 3 And **Joseph's ten brethren** went down to buy corn in Egypt. 4 **But Benjamin**, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him. 5 And **the sons of Israel** came to buy *corn* among those that came: for the famine was in the land of Canaan. 6 And **Joseph was the governor over the land**, and he it was

that sold to all the people of the land: and **Joseph's brethren came**, and **bowed down** themselves before him *with* their faces to the earth. **7** And **Joseph saw** his brethren, and **he knew them**, but **made himself strange** unto them, and **spake roughly** unto them; and he said unto them, Whence come ye? And they said, From the land of Canaan to buy food. **8** And **Joseph knew his brethren, but they knew not him.** **9** And **Joseph remembered the dreams** which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, **Ye are spies**; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. **10** And they said unto him, Nay, my lord, but to buy food are thy servants come. **11** *We are* all one man's sons; **we are true men**, thy servants are no spies. **12** And he said unto them, Nay, but to see the nakedness of the land ye are come. **13** And they said, Thy servants *are* **twelve brethren**, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest *is* this day with our father, and **one is not.** **14** And Joseph said unto them, That *is it* that I spake unto you, saying, *Ye are* spies: **15** Hereby **ye shall be proved**: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither. **16** Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that **your words may be proved**, whether *there be any* truth in you: or

else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye *are* spies. **17** And he put them all together into ward three days. **18** And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; **for I fear God:** **19** If ye *be* true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses: **20** But bring your youngest brother unto me; so shall your words be verified, and ye shall not die. And they did so. **21** And they said one to another, **We are verily**

guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us. **22** And **Reuben answered** them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required. **23** And they knew not that **Joseph understood them**; for he spake unto them by an interpreter. **24** And he turned himself about from them, and **wept**; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes. **25** Then **Joseph commanded to fill their sacks with corn, and to restore every man's money into his**

sack, and to give them provision for the way: and **thus did he unto them.** 26 And they laded their asses with the corn, and departed thence. 27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his ass provender in the inn, he espied his money; for, behold, it *was* in his sack's mouth. 28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, *it is* even in my sack: and **their heart failed them**, and they were **afraid**, saying one to another, **What is this that God hath done unto us?** 29 And **they came unto Jacob** their father unto the land of Canaan, and told him all that befell unto them; saying, 30 **The man, who is the lord of the land, spake roughly to us, and took us for spies of the country.** 31 And we said unto him, **We are true men;** we are no spies: 32 We *be* twelve brethren, sons of our father; one *is* not, and the youngest *is* this day with our father in the land of Canaan. 33 And the man, the lord of the country, said unto us, Hereby shall I know that ye *are* **true men;** leave one of your brethren *here* with me, and take *food* for the famine of your households, and be gone: 34 And bring your youngest brother unto me: then shall I know that ye *are* no spies, but *that ye are true men:* so will I deliver you your brother, and ye shall traffick in

the land. 35 And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money *was* in his sack: and when *both* they and their father saw the bundles of money, **they were afraid.** 36 And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of *my children*: Joseph *is* not, and Simeon *is* not, and ye will take Benjamin *away*: all these things are against me. 37 And Reuben spake unto his father, saying, Slay my two sons, if I bring him not to thee: deliver him into my hand, and I will bring him to thee again. 38 And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he is left alone: if mischief befall him by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to the grave.

- Remember that though Jacob is leading and guiding the family that they are all grown men with large adult families
- By now Benjamin is probably between 31 and 37 and Joseph is between 37 and 39 years old

I. The blessings of God on Jacob's life

A. God has vindicated him at last--he really was God's man!

- B. The years of plenty came and went 41:53 *And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.*
- C. The famine came 41:54 *And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.*
- D. Egypt had bread and plenty of it--they began to sell to other countries even 41:57 *And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.*
- E. Joseph is ruling over Egypt as second in command

II. Joseph remembers his dream 42:9 *And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

- A. His brothers have come and bowed down to him 42:6 *And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.*
- B. Joseph is speaking through an interpreter 42:23 *And they knew not that Joseph understood them; for he spake unto them by an interpreter.*

- C. Joseph speaks roughly to his brothers accusing them of being possible spies **42:9** *And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*
- D. In their defense they tell the family history and mention that Benjamin, the youngest is not with them, would be about 6 years younger than Joseph and now about 31 to 37 years of age
- E. Joseph tells them that they will have to prove their motives in being in Egypt **42:15** *Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother come hither.*
- F. He puts them in jail for 3 days **42:17** *And he put them all together into ward three days.*
- G. He tells them that he fears God and so will send 9 back home **42:18** *And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: 19* *If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses:*

III. Sin hurts everyone for a long time

- A. Don't forget it has now been at least 20 to 25 years since the problem in the family
- B. Jacob is still worried and over protective of his youngest son, Benjamin--who would now be a man **42:4** *But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.*
- C. It has to hurt that Jacob is afraid for Benjamin and tells the other brothers to just go on in spite of the possible mischief **42:4** *But Benjamin, Joseph's brother, Jacob sent not with his brethren; for he said, Lest peradventure mischief befall him.*
- D. The proud brothers find themselves bowing down **42:6** *And Joseph was the governor over the land, and he it was that sold to all the people of the land: and Joseph's brethren came, and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth. and having to prove themselves* **42:13** *And they said, Thy servants are twelve brethren, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and, behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is not. 14* *And Joseph said unto them, That is it that I spake unto you, saying, Ye are spies: 15* *Hereby ye shall be proved: By the life of Pharaoh ye shall not go forth hence, except your youngest brother*

come hither. 16 Send one of you, and let him fetch your brother, and ye shall be kept in prison, that your words may be proved, whether *there be any* truth in you: or else by the life of Pharaoh surely ye *are spies*.

E. The brothers spend 3 days in jail 42:17 And he put them all together into ward three days.

F. Simeon is left alone in jail for a long time

G. The brothers remember the hurt that they caused

1. We saw the anguish of his soul when he begged us
2. We ignored him
3. We sinned against our brother
4. His blood is now required of us

H. Joseph hurts as he hears his brothers remember their crime

I. They watch as their brother is tied up and taken back to jail 42:24 And he turned himself about from them, and wept; and returned to them again, and communed with them, and took from them Simeon, and bound him before their eyes.

J. They are afraid when they find their money in their sack 42:28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their heart failed *them*, and they were afraid,

saying one to another, *What is this that God hath done unto us?* 35

And it came to pass as they emptied their sacks, that, behold, every man's bundle of money *was* in his sack: and when *both* they and their father saw the bundles of money, they were afraid.

K. Jacob says that his son, Benjamin, will never leave because he has now lost 3 sons

L. Rueben offers to allow his two sons to die but they have to have food

IV. Practical lessons for our lives today

A. God will vindicate his man and judge correctly [I Corinthians 4:3](#)

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. 5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. Romans 14:4
Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own

master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

- B. Though the dream died for a while God brought it to pass-- though greatly different than Joseph had expected
- C. We can and should fear God in the bad times and the good times and yet many of us use either excuse to backslide
- D. Our sin will always find us out even if it is years and years later
- E. God has a way of bringing our sin before us and causing us to repent if we are truly part of his family
- F. Joseph is able to forgive them and not kill them
- G. He also sends them home with their money
- H. You can forgive and not seek vengeance on those that have done you wrong