

# Genesis Chapter Forty Two Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Read Matthew 26: 47-56.

## Dig:

- 1) What do Joseph's brothers do that fulfills dream from years before?
  
- 2) What is the situation in Canaan when Jacob sends his sons to Egypt?
  
- 3) What is the first thing that comes to Joseph's mind when he sees his brothers? Why might that be the case?
  
- 4) What does he accuse his brothers of coming to Egypt for?
  
- 5) What would the 10 brothers receive if they return with Benjamin?
  
- 6) When does 'substitution' take place in this chapter?
  
- 7) How is Joseph perceived by the 10 brothers? ( though they don't recognize him)

**Discuss:**

- 1) What reason could there be for restoring money to their sacks?
- 2) What motive do you think is behind Joseph's treatment of his brothers?
- 3) How have you learned to discipline your children?
- 4) Have you seen church discipline carried out? Did you understand what was taking place?

**Point of Prayer**

Pray for wisdom in a situation where you might need to bring a correction.

**Integrate:**

What other scripture comes to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Have you ever been in a desperate financial situation? What did you do?
- 2) Have you attended a class reunion? Was everyone recognizable to you? Who changed the most? Why?
- 3) Did you have a certain 'role' within your family? What was it?
- 4) Share a time when you had to trust someone else to meet a need?
- 5) Are you close to your brothers and sisters? How sacrificial are you with them? Is it different with your church family?
- 6) Have you experienced any great disappointment or grief that forever marked your family?

## Genesis Chapter Forty Two

### Genesis 42:1-4

**Now Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, and Jacob said to his sons, "Why are you staring at one another?" And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down there and buy some for us from that place, so that we may live and not die." Then ten brothers of Joseph went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he said, "I am afraid that harm may befall him."**

- Story shifts to Canaan
- Jacob and sons—still in region of Hebron—also suffering from this severe famine. Word is spreading throughout the region of the strategic measures taken by Egypt.
- Hebron hill country is known for its fertility—famous for fruit and grapes
- Jacob sends 10 sons to Egypt in search of food.
- Turning once more to Egypt in time of famine—like Abraham and Isaac.
- Benjamin is referred to as Joseph's brother—continued hierarchy and division
- The only reason Egypt becomes a provider during the famine is due to Joseph's foresight
- Did Jacob suspect the brothers of Joseph's death and refuse to part with Benjamin?
- The word 'buy' occurs no less than 5 times in first 10 verses—thought it was the only way to secure food. Joseph never allows it to be purchased by his brothers.

### Genesis 42:5-7

**So the sons of Israel came to buy grain among those who were coming, for the famine was in the land of Canaan also. Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers he recognized them, but he disguised himself to them and spoke to them harshly. And he said to them, "Where have you come from?" And they said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food."**

- Joseph recognizes his brothers—but they fail to recognize him ( Type of Christ: John 1:10-11)
- He speaks harshly—treats them like strangers—the way they had treated him

- Ruler—governor
- Just like Joseph recognized his brothers—God knows us—Jer 16:17
- All provision comes from Joseph—therefore a declaration of dependence is called for ( humility)
- How valuable is money in this situation?

### **Genesis 42:8-17**

**But Joseph had recognized his brothers, although they did not recognize him. And Joseph remembered the dreams which he had about them, and said to them, "You are spies; you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land." Then they said to him, "No, my lord, but your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man; we are honest men, your servants are not spies." Yet he said to them, "No, but you have come to look at the undefended parts of our land!" But they said, "Your servants are twelve brothers in all, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is with our father today, and one is no more." And Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you, you are spies; by this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here! Send one of you that he may get your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." So he put them all together in prison for three days.**

- Joseph accuses brothers of spying—when he had lived with them in Canaan—he had done the spying and the tale-bearing
- They claim to be honest men. They want their word to be believed. They are standing before the very one who knows that they are lying.
- Is no more—shows that they believe Joseph is dead.
- All brothers are in prison for 3 days—Joseph gives them a taste of his personal trials

### **Genesis 42:18-21**

**Now Joseph said to them on the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear God: if you are honest men, let one of your brothers be confined in your prison; but as for the rest of you, go, carry grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me, so your words may be verified, and you will not die." And they did so. Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."**

- For I fear God—he is speaking to a family—chosen of God—without any sense of God as sovereign in their own lives
- They acknowledge their cruelty and they are aware of it.
- They see the lack of their compassion toward Joseph as the current source of their trouble
- If you are honest men—words will be verifiable—they had been in the position to verify with one another (concerning Joseph) to their father. It is outside verification here.
- Joseph makes a way of deliverance through substitution—Gen 42:17-19, 24—(Type of Christ: the substitutionary death on the cross—Acts 2—Peter's sermon)

### **Genesis 42:22-24**

**And Reuben answered them, saying, "Did I not tell you, 'Do not sin against the boy'; and you would not listen? Now comes the reckoning for his blood." They did not know, however, that Joseph understood, for there was an interpreter between them. And he turned away from them and wept. But when he returned to them and spoke to them, he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.**

- Though Joseph interacts with those who betrayed him—and had no mercy—he cannot act contrary to his own heart. Behind the harshness there is affection.
- Reuben sees this trouble as a direct consequence for the blood of their brother Joseph
- Joseph takes Simeon rather than Reuben—perhaps based on lament of verse 22.
- Reckoning for blood—something understood since Gen 4.
- When a brother is 'bound' once more in front of them—designed to prick their memory of their treatment when they sold Joseph.

### **Genesis 42: 25-28**

**Then Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain and to restore every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. And thus it was done for them. So they loaded their donkeys with their grain, and departed from there. And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money; and behold, it was in the mouth of his sack. Then he said to his brothers, "My money has been returned, and behold, it is even in my sack." And their hearts sank, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"**

- They recognize God to be a God of Justice
- Brothers recognize their current chastisement coming directly from the hand of God
- Fear of the Lord is developing with the work of their conscience in the midst of the trial

### **Genesis 42:29-34**

**When they came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, "The man, the lord of the land, spoke harshly with us, and took us for spies of the country. But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we are not spies. We are twelve brothers, sons of our father; one is no more, and the youngest is with our father today in the land of Canaan.' And the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me and take grain for the famine of your households, and go. But bring your youngest brother to me that I may know that you are not spies, but honest men. I will give your brother to you, and you may trade in the land.'"**

- Called Joseph lord of the land
- Jacob hears their defense—all hinging on verifying that they are honest men. He has reason to fear

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

**Now it came about as they were emptying their sacks that behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack; and when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were dismayed. And their father Jacob said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and you would take Benjamin; all these things are against me." Then Reuben spoke to his father, saying, "You may put my two sons to death if I do not bring him back to you; put him in my care, and I will return him to you." But Jacob said, "My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is dead, and he alone is left. If harm should befall him on the journey you are taking, then you will bring my gray hair down to Sheol in sorrow."**

- It would seem that Jacob is willing to forfeit Simeon in order to protect Benjamin.
- When money is in each sack—it appears to Jacob tht his sons did not act with integrity toward Pharaoh.
- Reuben—first mention that he has sons.
- Jacob verbally assigns loss of Joseph to their blame.