

# The Story of Joseph: Seeing the Bigger Picture

## Week 9: Feast with the Family

### Scripture:

Genesis 43:19-34

### Motivation (Why You Need This):

#### *Where we left off last week...*

- Jacob allowed his sons to return to Egypt with Benjamin to hopefully get food
- Jacob sent them with a blessing
- Upon arrival in Egypt, Joseph's brothers were invited to a feast

I'm reminded of the *fear* and *dread* that Joseph may have felt all these decades as he was tossed around (pit to prison) by ever-changing circumstances...and now his brothers were having to face their fears of an uncertain future.

#### *What were Joseph's brothers facing?*

- *Famine* - no food for themselves and their families
- *Pressure* - disappointing Jacob because they were risking his son, Benjamin
- *Uncertainty* - surviving the captivity of Joseph now that they were in his house

It leads us to this question... "What does it feel like to stand in a moment where you are completely out of control of what happens next?"

### Information (What You Need to Know):

#### ▪ **Joseph's brothers take a defensive posture**

- ✓ They attempted to explain themselves to the steward concerning the money

**Genesis 43:19 (ESV)** So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and spoke with him at the door of the house, **20** and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food. **21** And when we came to the lodging place [on the way back to Canaan] we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us, **22** and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks."

- They were safeguarding themselves from any accusations of stealing
- They were hoping to have a listening ear with the steward before Joseph

- ✓ The steward calms their fears over the money and returns Simeon to them  
**Genesis 43:23 (ESV)** He replied, “Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.” Then he brought Simeon out to them.

“An indication of Joseph’s steward either having come to faith in God or having become very familiar with how Joseph talked of his God and life.” – MacArthur Study Bible

- **Joseph’s brothers put themselves in a vulnerable position before Joseph**

- ✓ They prepared, and were served by the steward before Joseph’s arrival  
**Genesis 43:24 (ESV)** And when the man had brought the men into Joseph’s house and given them water, and they had washed their feet, and when he had given their donkeys fodder, **25** they prepared the present for Joseph’s coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

- ✓ Joseph arrived and his brothers gave him gifts and bowed before him (dreams)  
**Genesis 43:26 (ESV)** When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground.

- ✓ Joseph asked about their wellbeing, as well as their father  
**Genesis 43:27 (ESV)** And he inquired about their welfare and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” **28** They said, “Your servant our father is well; he is still alive.” And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves.

- **Joseph is overwhelmed with emotions that are decades old**

- ✓ Joseph sees Benjamin  
**Genesis 43:29 (ESV)** And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother’s son, and said, “Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!”

- Joseph’s first reaction is not *bitterness*, but *blessing*
- The emotion doesn’t *become* his god, but he brings his emotions *to* God  
This is what maturity looks like. *Don’t deny* the emotion, *anchor it* to God.

- ✓ Joseph must leave the room because he is overcome with emotion  
**Genesis 43:30 (ESV)** Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there.

“Joseph was especially affected at meeting his only full brother, Benjamin, whom he last saw as a small child. He was so overcome with emotion that he went into his chamber and wept. He was sad and emotional because he never had a relationship with Benjamin.” – David Guzik

- Old pain resurfaces when you're brought back to hard memories
  - Joseph isn't in a counseling session...he's at a dinner table
  - There's a difference between being *over it*, or just *away from it*
  - God sometimes reintroduces memories not to *shame*, but to **heal**
- Healing happens when you're honest enough to weep and wise enough to discern

Joseph steps away to weep. He doesn't perform; he doesn't pretend. Tears are not weakness. God is teaching us that we can feel deeply, cry honestly, and still walk forward wisely one step at a time.

### Application (What You Need to Do):

So how does this conclude?

**Genesis 43:31 (ESV)** Then he washed his face and came out. And controlling himself he said, “Serve the food.” **32** They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat 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 at one another in amazement. **34** Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.

At this meal, Joseph does something that makes their stomach drop. He sits them down in birth order. And they're thinking, “*How does he know? We're seen right now. God knows what we did.*”

But then, nothing bad happens to them. They get fed. They get treated kindly. Grace shows up through the hands of this “Egyptian.” **This is the BIGGER PICTURE.**

God didn't send Joseph to Egypt to get even with his brothers. He sent Joseph ahead to keep them alive.

God often bring things into the light not to destroy, but to heal and sustain.