

Series: Standfast In the Lord

AN JOSEPH REMEMBERED THE
DREAMS THAT HE DREAMED
(PT 1)
GENESIS 42

Text: Genesis 42:9

Genesis 42:9

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.

Introduction:

Robert S. James was a farmer and Baptist preacher from Kentucky, who in the early 19th century, migrated to Missouri, and helped in the founding of William Jewell College, a Christian school that's still in existence today.

Before his death in 1850, James fathered three children, including two sons, who rather than following in his footsteps, became some of the most notorious brothers and outlaws in American History, Frank and Jesse James.

In the book of Genesis, the sons of Jacob have proven, for the most part, to be a pretty miserable lot.

The massacre of Shechem by Simeon and Levi, the sickening incest of Reuben with Bilhah, the sordid story of Judah's fornication with Tamar, and finally their cruel treatment of their little brother Joseph are chronicles of the corruption in the first children of Israel.

Beginning in chapter 42, the storyline of Genesis begins to rise towards its climax in which God would miraculously save His people through the ministry of Joseph in Egypt.

This story stretches over three chapters and we will look closer at them over the next few weeks. We will focus in on chapter 42 this morning.

The Bible tells us that Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed.

It had been a long process to getting to this point which included being cast into a pit, sold as a slave for a profit, and forgotten in prison. But all of this was preparing Joseph for this very moment.

Note:

1. THE CONDITION THAT WAS REACHED (vs. 1-2)

Some thirteen years had passed since Joseph's brothers had sold him as a slave into the hands of the traveling merchants.

In the meantime, God was with Joseph, and had guided him from the pit, to Potiphar's house, to the prison, and finally into palace of Pharaoh.

Yet, Joseph's brothers had no idea that any of this had happened. As far as they knew, Joseph was dead.

They would soon learn that their little brother was very much alive, and in the process, they would be reminded of the horrible sin they had committed against him.

In chapter 42, God began to squeeze the hearts of these brothers, and convict them of what they had done to Joseph.

Note:

A. The Suffering That Developed (Gen 41:54-57)

Genesis 41:54-57

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.***

Just as God had revealed to Joseph the famine came.

The Bible tells us it was sore.

The word means to be strong, stout, or hard.

We are also told that the famine was sore in all lands, including where Joseph's brothers were.

The Suffering that Developed led Jacob to:

B. The Source That Was Discovered (vs. 1)

Genesis 42:1

¹ **Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt,** Jacob said unto his sons, *Why do ye look one upon another?*

Word reached Jacob that that there was corn in Egypt. If they were going to survive then that would be their only hope.

Again we see how God is working in this story in the lives of this family.

We should always be thankful that God just doesn't discard us when we mess things up and demonstrate our sin nature.

When Jacob learned of the corn in Egypt he responded:

C. The Staring That Was Discouraged (vs. 1)

Genesis 42:1

¹ *Now when Jacob saw that there was corn in Egypt,* Jacob said unto his sons, **Why do ye look one upon another?**

All the staring and looking at each other was not going to put food on the table.

Sadly today, many see the problem but refuse to take steps to try to solve the problem

When Jacob discouraged their staring and looking at each other we see:

D. The Sons That Were Dispatched (vs. 2)

Genesis 42:2

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.***

Again staring at each other was not going to put food on the table.

Jacob dispatches his sons to go to Egypt to buy corn so that they would not die.

We have considered The Condition the Was Reached note secondly:

2. THE CAUTION THAT WAS REVEALED (VSS. 3-5)

Genesis 42:3-5

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.

Ten of the brothers were sent to Egypt to purchase corn.

However Jacob kept Benjamin behind just in case something happened to them on their way to Egypt, while in Egypt, or on their way home.

He had already lost one of his sons or so he thought and he couldn't fathom the thought of losing another son.

Joseph had been away from home for over 20 years.

When Jacob's sons arrive in Egypt we see:

3. THE CLAN THAT WAS RECOGNIZED (VS. 6-8)

Genesis 42:6-8

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.

Joseph had been promoted to a high position, the governor.

Joseph was the one who that sold the corn to all the people of the land.

Joseph's brothers came and bowed down themselves before him with their faces to the earth.

The Bible tells us that Joseph saw his brothers and he knew them, but made himself strange unto them and spoke roughly unto them; asking them "Whence come ye?"

They tell him from the land of Canaan to buy food.

Again Joseph knew them but they didn't recognize him.

This recognition led to:

4. COMMUNICATION THAT WAS REMEMBERED (VS. 9)

Genesis 42:9

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.

Years earlier Joseph had dreamed a dream that his brothers would bow down to him.

Genesis 37:5-11

⁵ And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. ⁶ And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: ⁷ For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. ⁸ And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

⁹ And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. ¹⁰ And he told it to

his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? ¹¹ And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

Though it had been a long time in coming No doubt Joseph remembered the dreams he dreamed and the conversation he had with his brothers and dad.

Note also:

5. THE CHARGE THAT WAS RECEIVED (VS. 9-13)

Genesis 42:9-13

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.

As you read through these chapters, you may feel like Joseph was just messing with his brothers. Someone might even say that he was torturing them a bit before letting them off the hook.

Joseph dealt carefully and slowly with his big brothers in order to test them. Joseph wanted to know if anything had changed in the years since they had beaten him and sold him like a piece of livestock.

Joseph accused his brothers of being spies.

Joseph wanted to see if there had been any repentance – any turning from their old, wicked ways.

They share with Joseph that they were the sons of one man.

They shared that the youngest stayed back home and there was one brother that is not, not knowing it's this brother they were speaking with.

Still not knowing Joseph we see:

6. THE CHILD THAT WAS REQUESTED (VS. 15-16)

Genesis 42:15-16

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.

We see in this:

- A. The Proof That Was Sought – one of you fetch your brother
- B. The Place of Their Securing – prison

7. THE CONVICTION THAT WAS REAPED (VS. 21-21)

Genesis 42:21-22

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.

The principle of sowing and reaping is clearly seen in this story.

Galatians 6:7-8

⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ⁸ For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

God has a way of convicting us when we have sinned.

Though they had sold Joseph many years ago, they are reminded of their sin.

When God allows conviction to settle in on our heart we should not grow bitter but allow God to teach us what He desires lead us to the place He desires us to be.

Close:

We will continue our study in this chapter next week but may we remember God knows where we are at and often God must prepare us so that we might be able to help others.

Remember also we reap what we sow, more than we sow and later than we sow.