

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

AUGUST 30, 2023

GENESIS 42:25-28

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The reunion of Joseph and his brothers gives us some insight into their hearts.
  - a) **GENESIS 42.18:** *“Do this and live, for I fear God.”* (cf. Gen. 32.9; 39.9; 40.8; 41.16)
  - b) **GENESIS 42.21,22:** *“We are truly guilty concerning our brother.”*
  - c) **GENESIS 42.24:** *“He turned himself away from them and wept.”*
2. Joseph sends his brothers back home to retrieve their brother Benjamin.
  - a) **GENESIS 42.24:** *“He took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.”*
  - b) Why Simeon? Reuben was the oldest but had no role selling him.
3. The way we react to the circumstances of life is consistent to our view of God.

### I. THE REACTION OF JOSEPH

- A. Consider the relationship that Joseph had with God.
  1. **GENESIS 42.18:** *“Do this and live, for I fear God.”*
  2. Joseph respected God in the house of Potiphar. (Gen. 39.2)
  3. Joseph gave credit to God for revealing the future. (Gen. 40.8; 41.16,25)
  4. Joseph was thankful to God for blessing his life. (Gen. 41.50-52)
- B. Joseph’s fear of God governed his reaction to his brothers.
  1. Joseph *“gave the command to fill their sacks with grain”* (Gen. 42.25; vs. 18,19)
  2. Joseph *“gave the command...to restore every man’s money to his sack”* (Gen. 42.25)
  3. Joseph *“gave the command...to give them provisions for their journey”* (Gen. 42.25)
- C. How we treat one another is dictated by how we feel about God.
  1. The two great commandments are interconnected. (Matt. 22.37-40; Rom. 13.8-10)
  2. We love one another because we love God. (1 John 4.20,21)

### II. THE REACTION OF THE BROTHERS

- A. Consider the relationship that the brothers had with God.
  1. The brothers of Joseph were vengeful bringing grief to their father. (Gen. 34.30,31)
  2. The brothers of Joseph were hateful bringing grief to their father. (Gen. 37.35)
  3. Judah had children who were *“wicked in the sight of the LORD”* (Gen. 38.6)
- B. The brothers of Joseph’s view of God governed their reactions.
  1. **GENESIS 42.26,27:** *“he saw his money; and there it was, in the mouth of his sack.”*
  2. They were frayed.
    - a) **GENESIS 42.28:** *“their hearts failed them”* (Gen. 42.28).
    - b) “Failed” translates a Hebrew word that means “to go forth” It is as if the wind was knocked out of them and their hearts were racing.
  3. They were afraid. Seeing the money, *“they were afraid”* (Gen. 42.28).
  4. They felt betrayed.
    - a) **GENESIS 42.28:** *“What is this that God has done to us?”*
    - b) They attributed their circumstances to God. Punishment? (cf. Acts 28.3,4)
- C. How we react to hardship is dictated by how we feel about God.
  1. Fears will not remain in the hearts of those who trust in God. (2 Cor. 7.5-7)
  2. Worry, fear, and doubt come from *“little faith”* (Matt. 6.30,31; 8.26; 14.31)
  3. Do we believe that God will get us through it? (Phil. 1.12,19)